In this Issue

Page #

2  A Challenge for Collaboration Between Experimental and Clinical Cardiologists

4  Karl Weber Receives the IACS Lifetime Achievement Award

5  Officers and Executive Council Members of IACS

6  Philip Kadowitz Receives the IACS Lifetime Achievement Award

7  Partnering Journals of the IACS

8  Academy Bestows Harold Buchwald Award Upon Dr. V. Mohan

9  Grant N. Pierce: A Pioneer, Team Builder and Innovative Scientist

12  CV Network Editorial Board

13  Kirshenbaum Appointed Director of the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences

14  Dr. Agrawal Receives Teaching Honor from Creighton University

14  Officers of Different Sections of the Academy

15  In Memoriam: Professor Enn Seppet

16  Annual Meeting IACS North America Section, Orlando, USA, 2017

19  2nd Announcement for IACS European Section Meeting, Pecs, Hungary, 2017

21  27th Scientific Forum, Campo Grande, Brazil, 2017

22  IACS India Section Meeting, Tamil Nadu, India, 2018

23  5th IACS European Section Meeting, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2018

24  10th ICC Meeting, Kosice, Slovakia, 2018
A Challenge for Collaboration Between Experimental and Clinical Cardiologists

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Last year we celebrated twenty years from the foundation of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Science (IACS). IACS was founded in 1996 on a proposal by Professor Naranjan Dhalla, and it was headquartered in the home city of its founder, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Established by renowned cardiologists, both experimental and clinical, the Academy provides the organizational structure for the worldwide sharing of research and education in the field of heart health. The importance of such an effort is strongly supported by the fact that cardiovascular diseases represent the number one killer, with a mortality rate exceeding 50% of total mortality. The Academy believes that the effective collaboration of experimental and clinical cardiologists will improve this unfavorable situation.

One can ask whether the world of cardiology needs another international society. I am deeply convinced that the only answer is yes and I take the opportunity to briefly explain my arguments. I am old enough to have been able to follow the development of the international cardiology community – particularly the relationships between clinical and experimental cardiologists - from the early 1960s of the past century. In 1964, the European Congress of Cardiology was organized in Prague, former Czechoslovakia. From the total number of accepted presentations, only three were devoted to experimental cardiology. This fact stimulated congress participants Richard Bing, the father of cardiac metabolism, Eors Bajusz, a brilliant Hungarian-American biologist, and my teacher Otakar Poupa to undertake the steps to improve this situation. Their highly enthusiastic effort to promote basic cardiology led finally to the foundation of the International Study Group for Research in Cardiac Metabolism in Dubrovnik, former Yugoslavia, in 1968. The name was later – at the suggestion of Naranjan Dhalla, one of its founders – changed to the International Society for Heart Research. Unfortunately, during further development, the thinking and philosophy of experimental and clinical cardiologists became very divergent. The problems were, of course, on both sides: extreme concentration on evidence-based medicine among clinical cardiologists and massive orientation toward molecular biology among experimental cardiologists. This development led officials of the American and European Cardiology Societies to the introduction of basic research sessions into the regular scientific program of their congresses. This laudable step was an important contribution to improved understanding between both communities. The disadvantage, however, is the size of the main congresses, which often exceeds 20,000 participants and, thus, complicates communication between clinical and experimental cardiologists. It is here that I see a role for the activities of the Academy. It is more than clear that only close collaboration between clinical and experimental cardiologists can be the driving force in the progress of contemporary cardiology. A more intimate and friendly atmosphere at IACS meetings thus, should create the productive background for effective discussion.

And now, a few words about the name of the Society. The English term “Academy” is derived from the ancient Greek “Academia”, a grove of trees and gymnasium outside of Athens where Plato taught. The word relates to the name of the supposed former owner of that estate, the Attic hero Akademos. According to the Webster dictionary, “Academia continues to provide scientific education and research.” Alternatively, it means the life, community or world of teachers, schools, and education. With this definition, the main goal of IACS is, therefore, the continuous education of the cardiology community, with the aim of understanding the pathogenesis, diagnosis and therapy of cardiovascular disease worldwide. The working conferences are oriented predominantly toward young researchers and, since 1996, IACS recognizes or participated in a total of 125 meetings. In addition, IACS recognizes the achievements of cardiovascular investigators by Fellowship in the Academy. Today, IACS has 242 regular Fellows and 59 Emeritus Fellows. Furthermore, IACS honors extraordinary individuals with Medals of Merit. This highest honour of the Academy is bestowed for outstanding achievements in cardiovascular education and research once per year. Among awardees are Nobel Prize winners R.F. Furchgott, Sir J. Vane, L.J. Ignarro and F. Murad. In conclusion, IACS continues to demonstrate its viability, scientific tact, enthusiasm and utility. I am convinced that it has earned its strong position in the cardiology community and, thus, fulfills the vision of its founder, Professor Dhalla.

Editor’s Note:

Bohuslav Ošťádal graduated at the Faculty of Pediatric Medicine, Charles University in Prague (in 1963) and earned his PhD degree at Department of Pathological Physiology, Faculty of Pediatric Medicine, Charles University in Prague

Dr. Ošťádal’s main area of research is on the ontogenetic development of heart structure and function. His early work on developing coronary circulation generated several landmark papers in this field. His laboratory was among the first to demonstrate the important ontogenetic differences in cardiac sensitivity to various pharmacological agents. He also investigated developmental changes in myocardial responses to acute oxygen deprivation, mechanisms of increased ischemic tolerance of the immature heart, and protective effects of preconditioning and chronic hypoxia. He has also been investigating the later life cardiovascular consequences of abnormal ontogenetic development during early phases of life. More recently, Dr. Ošťádal has been examining the sex differences of ischemic tolerance.

Dr. Ošťádal is the member of editorial Boards of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, Physiological Research, Cor et Vasa, Československá fyziologie and CV Network, and the member of local scientific committees at 2nd and 3rd Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and executive committee - postgraduate education in biomedicine at Charles University, Prague (President).


He taught students of pathological physiology at Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and the students of basic cardiology (postgraduate education of clinical cardiologists). His publication record contains 216 full papers, 51 book chapters, 4 chapters in textbooks and 2 monographs. He was editor of 5 monographs. He has received many significant awards and medals. Dr. Ošťádal was elected as a Fellow of the Czech Learned Society (the highest scientific position in Czech Republic) in 2015.

Selected Publications:

Dr. Karl T. Weber

Dr. Weber is the Neuton Stern Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Director of the Cardiology Training Program of the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). He received his undergraduate degree from Moravian College and his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine, where he also completed his internship. After a 2-year stay at the National Institutes of Health’s Artificial Heart Program, he completed his residency in internal medicine and fellowship in cardiology at the then University of Alabama College of Medicine. Dr. Weber joined the Department of Medicine, Cardiovascular-Pulmonary Division, at the University of Pennsylvania as Assistant Professor in 1974, later becoming tenured Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Cardio-Pulmonary Research Laboratories. In 1983 Dr. Weber was appointed Director of the Cardiology Division and Cardiovascular Institute of the Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center and Harold H. Hines, Jr. Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago. He joined the University of Missouri Health Sciences Center in 1990 serving as Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine and Director of the Division of Cardiology through 1997. He joined UTHSC as director of cardiology, serving through 2012.

Dr. Weber’s research interests (NIH-funded over 40 years) have focused on heart failure, its pathogenic origins and pathophysiologic expressions. He has recognized the importance of basic biomedical research in leading to advances in clinical medicine and where useful scientific discoveries in the laboratory can be applied to improve patient care. Specific research areas of interest have included: cardiac mechanics with the identification of measures of myocardial contractility, such as the end systolic stress-length relationship, which can be applied in the clinical assessment of failing hearts of different size and mass; and myocardial energetics with a view toward its efficiency and the heart’s metabolic reserve prior to the appearance of anaerobic metabolism and a decline in ventricular function. Translational research into the concept of the heart’s aerobic limit has been used in the noninvasive identification of the patient’s aerobic capacity and anaerobic threshold and the clinical assessment of heart failure and its severity. Termed cardiopulmonary exercise testing, this approach is now used worldwide in the evaluation of a patient’s candidacy for cardiac transplantation.

And finally, his pioneering work on the relevance of the heart’s extracellular matrix and cellular/molecular mechanisms responsible for cardiac fibrosis. This has included: the role of mineralocorticoid (MC)-induced secondary hyperparathyroidism in leading to intracellular calcium overload with oxidative stress and cardiomyocyte necrosis with ensuing microscopic scarring; and the autocrine/paracrine properties of myofibroblasts and their secretome expressed at sites of injury and which impart fibrous tissue with fibrogenic and fibrolytic properties. A worldwide controlled clinical trial (RALES) reported in 1999 was based on his experimental work with spironolactone, an MC receptor antagonist and demonstrated its successful overall management of patients having advanced heart failure. His most recent work has identified a population of atrophic myocytes, ensnared and unloaded by fibrillar collagen, which could be recruited toward the rescue of contractile mass in the failing heart.

He is an avid writer with over 600 publications, which have been cited in the scientific literature over 26,200 times. He serves on 5 international scientific advisory boards. He was elected president of the: Central Society for Clinical Research (1995–96); International Society for Heart Research, North American Section (1997–2000); International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences/North America (IACS/NA) (2005–09); and Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI) (2011–12) and was honored to receive its Founders Medal in 2012. Dr. Weber is the recipient of Moravian College (1987) and Temple University School of Medicine (1998) Alumni Achievement Awards. In 2005 he was the recipient of the Makato Nagano Award for Distinguished Achievements in Cardiovascular Research and in 2014 received the Distinguished Leadership Award in Cardiovascular Sciences presented by the IACS. Dr. Weber is also a Fellow of the IACS. Dr. Weber is always eager to take the path less well-traveled. He enjoys bridge building between the basic and clinical sciences and has served as mentor to over 200 cardiology trainees.
Selected Publications:


Philip Kadowitz Receives the IACS Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Philip J. Kadowitz

Dr. Kadowitz received his B.S. in Pharmacy in 1963 from the Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey, USA and went on to complete his Ph.D. in 1968 from the Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin USA. Following Postdoctoral training in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Manitoba, (1968-69) and in the Department of Pharmacology, University of Iowa (1969-71) and as Research Associate in 1971 in Department of Internal Medicine, University of Iowa, he was appointed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Tulane Medical School, New Orleans, LA in 1971 and moved rapidly up the ranks to become Full Professor in 1979. Dr. Kadowitz has published over 550 papers in peer-reviewed journals and 35 book chapters, mostly in the field of cardiovascular pathophysiology and pharmacology. He has trained 19 graduate students (M.Sc./Ph.D) and 13 Postdoctoral Fellows. Dr. Kadowitz has received several honors and awards, most notably the Established Investigatorship from the American Heart Association (AHA) and ICI highly cited author as top 0.5% of all publishing researchers in the world. He has served on many local as well as national AHA committees.

Dr. Kadowitz has been at the forefront of cardiovascular research for the past 5 decades. His work with Dr. Louis Ignarro resulted in the identification and confirmation that EDRF as nitric oxide for which Dr. Ignarro received the 1998 Nobel Prize in the Physiology of Medicine category. It was in the Dr. Kadowitz’ laboratory that nitric oxide was first shown to inhibit platelet aggregation, a major step in the understanding of the role of nitric oxide and nitric oxide donors in the pathophysiology of atherosclerotic disease in man. His major research expertise is in the area of cardiovascular pharmacology; regulation of pulmonary vascular flow and gene therapy for lung disorders.

Dr. Kadowitz’ work has been focused on improving the understanding of humoral mechanisms, which contribute to the regulation of tone in the pulmonary vascular bed. Prostaglandins and thromboxane A2 (TXA2) are released by the lung in a number of pulmonary disorders including pulmonary embolism, gram negative sepsis, and the adult respiratory distress syndrome. Dr. Kadowitz’ laboratory has demonstrated that TXA2 has marked vasoconstrictor activity in the pulmonary vascular bed. Indeed, by employing right-heart and trans-septal catheterization techniques and biochemical studies, the characterization of the TXA2 response as well as the role of COX-1 and COX-2 in the formation of the prostaglandins and TXA2 has been established. Another of Dr. Kadowitz’ achievement has been to significantly add to the understanding of the role of the endothelium in regulating vascular resistance and in mediating responses to vasodilator agents in the pulmonary and peripheral vascular beds. This primary research has provided new insights into pulmonary vascular disorders as well as foundations for novel therapy.

Selected Publications:


www.heartacademy.org


Dr. Vishwanathan Mohan was selected for the 9th Annual Harold Buchwald Distinguished Lecture in Heart Health. He was introduced by Dr. Grant Pierce, Executive Director of the St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre and President of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences—North America Section. Dr. Mohan gave a highly thought provoking lecture “We can prevent diabetes—a major risk factor for heart disease” on May 10, 2017, Winnipeg, Canada. He was presented with a Plaque and Cash Prize. This award was established by the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences and the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre to honor Harold Buchwald, C.M., Q.C., LL.D. (Hon) for his extraordinary commitment to prevent heart disease as well as his untiring efforts to promote the objectives of the Academy. Harold Buchwald was born in Winnipeg in 1928. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a law degree and was called to the Bar in 1952. He was a founder of the law firm Buchwald Asper Henteleff and was President of the Manitoba Bar Association and the Law Society of Manitoba. He served on the boards of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, the Health Sciences Centre Foundation and the Canadian Consumer Council. He helped found the Business Council of Manitoba as well as Arts Stabilization Manitoba, and continued to serve both as a director. He received Honorary Doctorate Degree from the University of Manitoba and was named to the Order of Canada in 2003. He passed away in 2008.

Dr. V. Mohan is the Chairman and Chief of Diabetology at Dr. Mohan’s Diabetes Specialities Centre at Chennai in South India, which is a WHO Collaborating Centre for Non communicable Diseases Prevention and Control. He is also President and Director of the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation. Early in his academic pursuits, Dr. Mohan received several honors and awards, including the Dr. R.V. Rajam Gold Medal for standing first in the University of Madras in M.D. (General Medicine). He has received Conferred Fellowships from the Royal College of Physicians, U.K., from all the three Science Academies of India, and Mastership of American College of Physicians (MACP). Dr. Mohan has published 1,042 papers in peer reviewed journals and textbooks. His work has a h-index of 89 with over 36,000 citations. His current research interests include Epidemiology of Diabetes and its complications, Genomics of Diabetes and Prevention of Diabetes through Community Empowerment.

Dr. Mohan set up the Sai Rural Diabetes Project at Chunampet, which is now internationally recognized as a model for rural diabetes care in developing countries. Dr. Mohan has received over 140 awards including the prestigious Dr. B.C. Roy National Award from the Medical Council of India and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Centenary Award for excellence in Biomedical Research from the Indian Council of Medical Research. Dr. Mohan also provides life long free treatment to thousands of underprivileged patients through the free diabetic clinics established by him. In addition, he has conducted over 2,000 free diabetes camps including several along with the Sri Sathya Sai Organization. For his extensive contributions in the field of diabetes in 2012, Dr. Mohan was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri, one of the highest civilian awards from the Government of India. The lecture by Dr. Mohan can be viewed at: http://www.sbrstream.ca/l/Watch/79.aspx

Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, Honorary Life President IACS (L) and Dr. Grant Pierce, President IACS-North America Section and Executive Director of Research, St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre (R) present the Harold Buchwald Distinguished Lecture Award to Dr. V. Mohan (C).
Grant N. Pierce: A Pioneer, Team Builder and Innovative Scientist

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Biosketch of Grant Pierce.
Grant N. Pierce was born in Welland, Ontario, Canada on February 15, 1953. He completed his Bachelors in Physical Health Education (B.P.H.E.) from Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Canada in 1976. He went on to post graduate studies and completed his M.Sc. from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada in 1979 and received his doctorate degree from the Department of Physiology, University of Manitoba in 1983 under the supervision of Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla. Dr. Pierce continued with his training as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Physiology, University of California, Los Angeles, under the guidance of Dr. Glenn A. Langer and Dr. Kenneth A. Philipson. He was recruited back to Winnipeg and to the University of Manitoba, Department Physiology as Assistant Professor (1986-1990) where he moved up the ranks, with promotion to Associate Professor (1990-1994) and to Full Professor in 1994. Dr. Pierce has been a Principal Investigator (PI) in the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and a Staff Scientist, Department of Medicine, St. Boniface Hospital, Winnipeg since 1987. He was cross appointed as Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba, in 2002. While Dr. Pierce was Director of the Division of Stroke and Vascular Disease, St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, Winnipeg, from 1997-2006, he also served as Director of the National Centre for Agri-Food Research in Medicine, St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre from 1999-2005 and Assistant Dean (Research), Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba from 2005-2010. He was Director of Basic Science Research, St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre from 2004 to 2005 when he was appointed and continues as the Executive Director of Research at St. Boniface Hospital and recently appointed as Assistant Executive Director of the Manitoba Medical Service Foundation (2016). Dr. Pierce is currently President of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences-North America Section. Here, some significant achievements of Dr. Pierce particularly for his outstanding leadership in promoting cardiovascular research and education are highlighted.

Dr. Pierce has a stellar record of health research funding and knowledge creation. He currently holds a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Foundation grant as Principal Investigator (PI). With so relatively few currently held in Canada and the low success rate in obtaining this kind of support, it is a clear indication of the quality of his research. Dr. Pierce has also held uninterrupted funding as a PI from CIHR (and the Medical Research Council) for more than 30 years; in short, every year since his initial appointment at the University of Manitoba. He is highly productive and the impact is reflected in the number of peer-reviewed publications (219), books authored or edited (8), citations (8900) and Google Scholar H index (55).

Some highlights of Dr. Pierce’s research contributions include his pioneering work in the identification of diabetic cardiomyopathy in the late 1970’s/early 80’s, at a time when this concept was not accepted. It is now a well-accepted concept with clinical implications. He established key evidence for the subcellular basis for the diabetic cardiomyopathy, a concept that is well-accepted today. His was also one of two or three laboratories in the world that initially proved that the involvement of a sodium/hydrogen and sodium/calcium exchange cascade is critical for ischemia/reperfusion injury. This resulted in major clinical trials that ultimately proved the clinical utility of blocking this pathway. Work continues examining the possible therapeutic efficacy of Na/Ca exchange blockers for ischemia/reperfusion injury (cited 700 times). In addition, Dr. Pierce was the first to show a cause-and-effect relationship between Chlamydia pneumoniae infection and atherosclerosis (cited 200 times), and his novel work on the efficacy of dietary flax as an anti-hypertensive agent is further described in the section below related more specifically to knowledge translation. His most recent research on the development of a new platform of antibiotics is perhaps his most impactful research to date and has attracted impressive...
media coverage. This too has exciting translational potential.

**Dr. Pierce has an impressive record of health research knowledge translation.** He has shown the ability to undertake mechanistic work at a cell and molecular level and translate these advances into a randomized clinical trial (RCT). In preclinical animal studies, Dr. Pierce demonstrated that flaxseed provides anti-arrhythmic, anti-atherogenic and anti-inflammatory actions. This work evolved into a series of Phase I clinical trials that culminated in the 1st major clinical trial (1 year, double blinded, placebo-controlled RCT) to investigate its effects on hypertension. Not only was the decrease on blood pressure more than seen with any other dietary intervention in hypertensive patients, it was at least as good as any antihypertensive medication currently marketed today. It is predicted that this would reduce the incidence of myocardial infarctions and stroke by ~50%, which was highlighted at the international and highest level by the American Heart Association, and received significant media attention. Furthermore, Dr. Pierce’s work on trans fats, and specifically the benefits of those found in dairy products (as opposed to the deleterious effects of those found in hydrogenated foods), offers the protection from heart disease to animals. Finally, Dr. Pierce’s work has led him to the creation of novel antibiotics that may kill pathogenic bacterial infections like *Chlamydia pneumonia*, with implications to the prevention and treatment of many other infections across the globe.

**Dr. Pierce is a recognized team builder and partner.** He recognized early that timely progress towards successful research outcomes demands establishing multidisciplinary teams. There are many examples but perhaps the best is the Canadian Centre for Agri-Food Research in Health and Medicine (CCARM), which he created from nothing that is now recognized as an international resource in nutraceutical and functional food research excellence for both basic science and four independent University faculties at that time (Agriculture and Food Sciences, Human Ecology, Medicine and Pharmacy) to work together at a Hospital campus that did not possess pre-existing infrastructural for this program. CCARM was a world first from an organizational standpoint, as Dr. Pierce was successful in bringing together a teaching hospital (St. Boniface Hospital), a major University (the University of Manitoba) and a national agricultural body (Agriculture and Agri-food Canada). This joint organization recently reviewed CCARM, which received their highest rating and was endorsed for renewal.

Dr. Pierce was also instrumental in creating the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Youth BioLab at St. Boniface Hospital, to allow children (primarily Grades 5-8) to be involved in hands-on experiments about science, research and health. Children dissect brains and hearts, culture bacteria, learn about organ function in a real hospital laboratory. All Provincial children from different socio-economic backgrounds have access to this laboratory opportunity. It is the only one of its kind in a Canada and North America. This was a partnership between the Louis Riel School District, the Government of Manitoba, RBC Bank and St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre. It is now funded on an annual basis by these partners in addition to a competitive grant obtained from the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) to operate this one-of-a-kind facility. Thousands of children visit the Youth BioLab each year.

**Dr. Pierce has an impressive record as a supporter of the research enterprise locally, nationally and internationally.** He has served as an external reviewer of research grants for 12 countries (Bahrain, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Israel, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA), as a member of the Board of Directors for six different provincial and national health boards, and served on 168 different committees for local, national and international organizations.

Locally, he has served for the last ten years as Executive Director of Research for St. Boniface Hospital that includes a staff of ~250 with some 80 University of Manitoba trainees, and an annual budget of $15M. He is responsible for the research vision and conduct of all research on the St. Boniface Hospital campus. Under his direction, the Hospital was recently recognized by Research Infosource Inc. as the #1 Research Intensive Hospital in Western Canada for the 4th consecutive year. It was also within the Top 10 Research Intensive Hospitals in Canada. He has also served as an Assistant Dean of Research in the Faculty of Medicine (now Rady Faculty of Health Sciences), as well as on committees for the Manitoba Health Research Council (now Research Manitoba), Winnipeg Rh Institute, Manitoba Medical Services Foundation, Centre for Substance Use in Sport and Health (SUSH), to name a few.

Nationally, Dr. Pierce remains the only Manitoban to serve as Chair of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC) Scientific Review Executive Committee. He was responsible for peer-review conducted for the HSFC, and his term of three years is the longest of any previous or current HSFC Chair. Further examples of national involvement include serving as a member of peer review committees, often as Chair or Vice Chair, for Alberta Innovates Health Solutions, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program, Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), CIHR, Medical Research Council of
Canada, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. He has also served on the Research Advisory Panels of HSFC, CIHR, the University of Saskatchewan, University of Prince Edward Island, Queen’s University, the Canadian Agri-food Policy Institute, Centre Stone Ventures Fund, Medicure, and the Scientific Advisory Board for the CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health.

International, Dr. Pierce was also invited to serve as a member of peer review committees for: International Advisory Panel for University of Sharjah Biomedical Research Institute, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates; Current Drugs Ltd., London, U.K; Mayo Clinic, USA; National Institutes for Health USA; and Ranjiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, India. In addition to committee work, Dr. Pierce has been the longest serving Editor of the Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology (2003-2016). He has been the Assistant / Associate Editor of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry for the last 29 years. He has been a member of Editorial Boards for Circulation Research, Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, American Journal of Physiology, Heart and Circulatory Physiology, and the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, amongst others.

Dr. Pierce is nationally and internationally recognized through invited presentations for this research and awards. He has delivered nearly 300 invited lectures in 31 different countries. Dr. Pierce has received awards in recognition of research excellence from the Governments of Canada, Cuba, Hungary, India, Serbia, and Slovakia, as well as the American Heart Association, CIHR, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, the International Society for Heart Research, Life Sciences Association of Manitoba, and the University of Manitoba. Dr. Pierce was also identified as one of the 10 most significant current Manitoban medical researchers by the Manitoba Health Research Council during their 25 year celebration.

Dr. Pierce is an elected Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the American Physiological Society, the International Society for Heart Research, the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS), the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, the Royal Society of Medicine (London) and the Royal Society of Canada. Induction into the Royal Society of Canada “represents Canadian scholars, artists, and scientists, peer-elected as the best in their field… from all branches of learning who have made remarkable contributions in the arts, the humanities and the sciences, as well as in Canadian public life”. He was highlighted in “Follow the Leaders: Celebrating Biotechnology Innovators”, 2003 Industry Canada publication and in a 2011 BioBusiness article, “Science in Canada: Canada’s Best”. In addition, he is named as a member of the Research Hall of Fame for the web site of the International Society for Heart Research. Recognition was also brought to the University of Manitoba by Dr. Pierce receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Government of Canada. His most recent award, the 2016 Research Canada Leadership Award reflects once again his reputation across Canada with this prestigious distinction.

Dr. Pierce has also been involved in the organization of more than 70 international meetings, 30 of these conferences have been held in Manitoba. He has brought three Nobel Laureates to the University bringing distinction to our University at the highest level. In addition, Dr. Pierce has had a leadership role in organizing a biannual Cuba-Canada International Cardiovascular Research Conference in Holguin Cuba for the last eight years. The IACS-North America has established an annual awards competition in his name for promoting young investigators.

Last but by no means least, Dr. Pierce is an outstanding mentor and has contributed to the training of the next generation of those interested in health delivery, drug development as well as research and academia. He has supervised undergraduate students every year for the last 20 years. These students have moved into graduate school (6), medical schools (16), and become health professionals (4). Dr. Pierce has a strong history of training graduate students. His graduate students (23) alone have won 46 Studentships/Scholarships, 23 poster awards and 61 competitive awards for research excellence. It is worth noting that on peer reviewed publications where Dr. Pierce is the corresponding author; his trainees have been 1st author on 90% of these. His trainees have gone on to successful careers and leadership roles in academia, medicine (clinicians, surgeons, physician assistants and clinical physiotherapists), as clinical or research directors, clinical research scientists, senior managers in the pharmaceutical industry, project or technology transfer managers, director of regulatory affairs, Health Canada senior compliance officer, research facilitator, or medical students and postdoctoral fellows in Argentina, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon and USA.

Selected Publications:


The University of Manitoba and St. Boniface Hospital announced the appointment of Dr. Lorrie Kirshenbaum as Director of the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences (ICS) at the Albrechtsen Research Centre at St. Boniface Hospital. Dr. Kirshenbaum assumed this role June 1, 2017. Dr. Kirshenbaum succeeds Dr. Pawan Singal, who has led the Institute since 2007. Dr. Singal is a principal investigator of cell pathophysiology at the ICS as well as professor, department of physiology and pathophysiology at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Kirshenbaum is principal investigator of Cardiac Gene Biology, ICS, and professor, department of physiology and pathophysiology, University of Manitoba. He holds a Canada Research Chair in Molecular Cardiology and is director of research development, Rady College of Medicine, University of Manitoba. His research is setting the stage for the use of gene therapy in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases and is supported by a Foundation grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation. Dr. Kirshenbaum is a Fellow of the International Society for Heart Research (2010) and the American Heart Association (2009) and Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (2012).

“I am very pleased that the new Director of the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences is one of the University’s and St. Boniface’s leading researchers,” says Dr. Bruce Roe, President and CEO of St. Boniface Hospital. “I believe that Dr. Kirshenbaum’s vision for cardiovascular research will significantly advance research in this field and assist in making our province a centre of cardiovascular excellence not only in research but in patient care."

“The appointment of Dr. Kirshenbaum to the position of Director of the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences is an important one” says Dr. Grant Pierce, executive director of research at St. Boniface Hospital. “The Institute is one of the largest and best groups of heart researchers in Canada. Dr. Kirshenbaum brings a well-established track record of success to this job and is well respected and recognized for his research accomplishments in the field of cardiac gene biology. We are fortunate and excited to have him lead the Institute into the future.”

“Dr. Kirshenbaum is an outstanding cardiovascular researcher,” says Dr. Digvir Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International) at the University of Manitoba. “I look forward to working with him in his new leadership role at the helm of this world-class research institute.”

"I am very excited to be asked to serve as the director of this institute" says Dr. Kirshenbaum. "I look forward to working closely with the Cardiac Sciences Program of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority as well as other Provincial stakeholders to build an Institute known for training and translational research, so we will be better positioned for major strides towards reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease. Our research team is second to none in Canada, and a team effort will form an important part of the solution to this major health problem."

Bill Peters  
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Editor's note: Dr. Lorrie Kirshenbaum is also currently the Director of Research Development College of Medicine, University of Manitoba and is a Fellow of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. Dr. Kirshenbaum has identified that specific genes within the heart, particularly the tumor suppressor protein p53 is up-regulated during disease states and provokes apoptosis. Dr. Kirshenbaum’s research has further identified that human factor Bcl-2 can suppress cardiac cell death when delivered to heart via a recombinant adenovirus. These studies established for the first time the involvement of caspase 8 and mitochondria dependent pathway for hypoxia-induced apoptosis of cardiac myocytes. In addition, Dr. Kirshenbaum has recently cloned a novel mitochondrial death factor known as Bnip3 and has identified that Bnip3 is selectively induced in ventricular myocytes during hypoxia. For most of the last 20 years, Kirshenbaum has been engaged in determining ways to keep heart cells alive and to prevent heart failure by preventing Bnip3 from turning on in the first place.
Dr. Agrawal Receives Highest Teaching Honor from Creighton University, School of Medicine

Dr. Devendra “DK” Agrawal

Longtime Creighton University School of Medicine, Professor Devendra K. Agrawal, PhD, was the 2017 recipient of Creighton’s Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement. Dr. Agrawal was presented the award at Creighton’s Spring Commencement, May 13. Dr. Agrawal, who began his tenure at Creighton in 1985, is an established, and a gifted teacher and mentor committed to developing the next generation of researchers and clinicians. Selected from nominations made by Creighton students, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement, the University’s highest teaching award, has been bestowed since 1970.

The award highlights the contributions of a full-time educator at the University who has demonstrated mastery in their respective field, an ability to inspire students and present subject matter in an effective manner, a commitment to serving the University and a concern for all students as individuals. The University’s doctorate program in Clinical and Translation Science is the only one of its kind in the region and exists largely due to Dr. Agrawal’s efforts.

Dr. Agrawal is one of the University’s all-time leaders in grant funding; generating tens of millions of dollars for research on diverse disorders including cardiovascular disease. He is presently the principal investigator on seven active research grants from the NIH, totaling $15 million. Of note, the Department of Clinical and Translational Science has 30 students or postdoctoral researchers from 15 countries.

Officers of Different Sections of the Academy

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Remembering a Very Special Fellow of the Academy

In Memoriam: Professor Enn Seppet

By Kalju Paju
University of Tartu Institute of Biomedicine, Tartu, Estonia
Email: kalju.paju@ut.ee

Editors note: The In Memoriam was published in Eesti Arst 2012; 91 (11): 632 and has been translated with Google translator. Extracts have been further edited for publication in CV Network.

Dr. Enn Seppet suddenly passed away on September 29, 2012. Following graduation from Tartu I Central School (now Hugo Treffneri gymnasium) in 1974; he took on post graduate studies at the University of Tartu on “phosphocreatine, the link to glycolytic reactions in mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation in muscle cells”, which he defended in 1980 in Moscow. He was a scientist and longtime faculty (1981-2012), at the University of Tartu, Faculty of General and Molecular Medicine, Tartu, Estonia. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow during 1987-1989 at the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre with Dr. Naranjan Dhalla and in 1992, Dr. Seppet was appointed as Full Professor of Pathological Physiology. Dr. Seppet was actively involved in the organization of academic life within and outside of Tartu University. He helped in serving on the organizing committees for international conferences, was a reviewer for numerous scientific societies and also served locally on the Science Competence Council.

Dr. Seppet was a visiting scientist in several countries including Germany, France and the Scandinavian countries. His work over the years initially focused on the cardiac muscle cells hormonal response. Later his interests grew to include energy metabolism in cardiac disease and in gastric epithelial cells and brain cells. Indeed, his work on molecular systems bioenergetics with Drs. Engelbrecht, Vendelin and Saks was recognized in 2008 with the Estonia National Science Award. Notably, Dr. Seppet’s work initiated intensive activity in 19 different international research centers in a collaborative project entitled MYOAGE (Understanding and Combating age Related Muscle Weakness). Dr. Seppet published over 75 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and graduated 7 Ph.D. and 4 M.Sc. students as well as supervised 4 Postdoctoral Fellows. Dr. Seppet’s versatility and capability was also demonstrated through his activities within Tartu City Council and Tartu Toome. He was a member of the Rotary Club, and in his free time was a senior guitarist in big bands. Dr. Seppet made significant and important contributions to Estonia during its independence and will be remembered by his colleagues and friends for his science, teaching, community involvement and pleasant personality.

University of Tartu Institute of Biomedicine, Tartu, Estonia
Dear Colleagues:

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the 5th Annual Meeting of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS): North America Section on August 31st – September 2nd 2017. The main theme of the conference is to Promote Young Investigators and Centers of Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences. This international meeting will be attended by National and International Scientists (basic and clinicians), Professors, Students, Post-doctoral Fellows, Research Associates, and Young Investigators in the field of cardiovascular and metabolic sciences to exchange scientific ideas, generate collaborations, and discover new ways to advance scientific research for the betterment of the community.

For detailed conference information as well as information on registration and hotel accommodation, please go to: http://www.iacs2017.com/

Registration: The conference fees can be paid by clicking on: IACS2017 Conference Registration Link

PLEASE USE REGISTRATION CODE: IACS 2017 and enter the registration amount.

Regular Registration Fee (April 1-June 30 2017): $500 USD
Late Registration Fee (July 1-August 30 2017): $600 USD
On-Site Registration: $700 USD

Registration will include: Free conference material, 2 days breakfast and lunch (September 1 and 2), Reception (September 1) Dinner and Gala Dinner (September 2).

Abstract Submission: For guidelines, abstract template and online submission (deadline: June 30th, 2017), please go to http://www.iacs2017.com/abstracts

Hotel: You can make your reservation online: http://www.iacs2017.com/accomodation/ and click on: Reservation Link for UCF 2017 Academic Cardiovascular Scientists

Special group rate: $99 USD per night at the Courtyard Orlando Lake Nona
Special group rate: $119 USD per night at the Residence Inn Orlando Lake Nona
(SPECIAL ROOM RATES WILL EXPIRE SOON. PLEASE RESERVE THE HOTEL ASAP).

Competition Awards for Young Scientists:

1. Travel awards
2. Poster competition awards
3. Young investigator award

We look forward to seeing you in the City of Magic Kingdom and newly housed Harry Potter in Universal Orlando.

With best regards,

Dinender Singla (dsingla@ucf.edu)
Bill Decampli (William.Decampli@orlandohealth.com)
Sampath Parthasarathy (sparthar@ucf.edu)

(Co-chairs and organizers IACS 2017)
4110 Libra Drive, Building #20 Room # 320A, Orlando, FL, 32816: 407-823-0953 (Ph.) : 407-823-0956 (Fax)
Scientific Symposia Program

5th Annual Meeting of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS): North America Section
August 31st – September 2nd 2017

This conference is designed to attract both young and established investigators in the fields of cardiovascular physiology, pathophysiology, molecular biology, biochemistry, pharmacology, epidemiology and medicine. In addition to the young investigator and poster award competitions, it is planned to hold 7 named symposia sessions, 5 thematic symposia sessions and up to 8 general symposia sessions, depending upon the number of participants interested in oral presentation. There will be 2 to 3 parallel symposia sessions and one poster mentoring session each day (September 1 and 2; 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM). Two individuals from speakers for the named symposia and thematic symposia will be selected for the Naranjan Dhall and Norman Alpert Awards (cash prizes and plaque) by the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences; these honors will be bestowed upon at the Awards Ceremony. The organizers are making all efforts to raise funds from different sources and if successful, they will provide partial support for hospitality and accommodation to some of the symposia speakers.

A. Named Symposia Sessions

1. Eric Olson Symposia: Molecular Biology of Heart in Health and Disease
2. Kern Wildenthal Symposia: Cardiac Development and Regeneration
3. Dennis B. McNamara Symposia: Vascular and Endothelial Defects
4. Jawahar Mehta Symposia: Atherosclerosis and Diabetes
5. Bruce McManus Symposia: Pathophysiology of Heart Disease
6. Karl Weber Symposia: Heart Failure and Cardiac Remodeling
7. Stephen Vatner Symposia: Ischemic Heart and Reperfusion Injury

B. Thematic Symposia Sessions

1. Thematic Symposium: Arrhythmias and Electrophysiology
2. Thematic Symposium: Apoptosis and Autophagy
3. Thematic Symposium: Myocardial Metabolism in Health and Disease
4. Thematic Symposium: Hypertension: Pathophysiology and Pharmacology
5. Thematic Symposium: Myocardial Infarction and Fibrosis

C. General Symposia Sessions

It is planned to hold up to 8 symposia sessions on different topics in the field of cardiovascular science and medicine depending upon the number of registered participants and abstracts for presentation.

D. Program Schedule

**August 31, 2017**
7:00 to 10:00 PM  Reception and get together

**September 1 & 2, 2017**
8:00 to 9:00 AM  Continental Breakfast & Networking
9:00 to 10:30 AM  Scientific Session
10:30 to 11:00 AM  Coffee Break
11:00 to 12:30 PM  Scientific Session
12:30 to 1:30 PM  Lunch & Networking
1:30 to 3:00 PM  Scientific Session
3:00 to 3:30 PM  Coffee Break
3:30 to 5:00 PM  Scientific Session
7:00 to 10:00 PM  Dinner/Reception
Young Investigator Award Competitions and Travel Grants

5th Annual Meeting of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS): North America Section
August 31st – September 2nd 2017

A. Young Investigator Award Competitions

In order to promote young cardiovascular scientists, the North American Section of the Academy has organized 4 symposia sessions (2 for graduate students, residents, postdoctoral and postgraduate fellows, and 2 for young faculty as part of the scientific program of the conference). Each session will have four speakers, who will make their presentations for the following awards competitions:

1. James Willerson Competition for Postgraduate Fellows & Residents
2. Gary Lopaschuk Competition for Graduate Students
3. Roberto Bolli Competition for Young Faculty in Translational Science
4. Grant Pierce Competition for Young Faculty in Biomedical Sciences

General Information: Each candidate entering the young investigator competition will be required to pay appropriate registration fee (which includes hospitality) and make own hotel reservation in addition to sending an abstract of their talk. 16 young investigators will be selected for 4 competitions; those selected will be refunded a major portion of their registration fee (only $50 will be deducted as management fee). In addition, all 16 individuals will be provided free hotel accommodation (3 nights) and full hospitality. Furthermore, one person from each of the 4 competitions will receive a cash prize and a plaque from the IACS-North America. Those candidates, who will not be selected for participation in competitions, will be placed in other programs of the conference; students and fellows will be placed in poster session competitions as well as for travel awards, whereas the young faculty will be asked to give talks under general symposia sessions.

Young faculty or investigators (within 7 years of the first appointment) for the awards competition sessions are normally nominated by the members of the IACS-North America Council and Officers. However, self-nominations are also encouraged. Two award committees (each consisting of 5 members) will select 8 candidates (4 for each competition) for their presentations. Talks of these candidates (4 in each competition) will be evaluated by two panels of three judges and 2 winners will be identified (1 for each competition) for receiving cash prize and certificate at the awards ceremony.

Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and residents should clearly identify their poster if they wish to participate in two young investigator award competitions. Two five member award committees will select 8 candidates for their presentations (4 candidates for each competition). Two panel of judges will select 2 winners of the award (one for each competition) to be announced at the awards ceremony.

B. Poster Award Competitions

Two poster award mentoring competitions (one each day) will be held for the benefit of young investigators. Four winners will be selected each day by a panel of judges and each individual will receive cash prize and certificate under the following competitions:

1. Morris Karmazyn Poster Award in Translational Medicine
2. Margaret P. Moffat Poster Award in Biomedical Sciences

C. Albrechtsen Research Centre Travel Grants for Young Investigators

Travel grants will be provided to 10 students and fellows attending the conference.
Second Announcement

We are pleased to inform you about the progress in the organisation of the 4th European Section Meeting of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS-ES) in Pécs, Hungary, September 28-30, 2017.

To commemorate the 650th anniversary of Pecs University’s Foundation, IACS-ES symposium will be held parallel to the annual meetings of the Prevention and Rehabilitation Fraction of the Hungarian Cardiology Society, the Hungarian Stroke Society, the Hungarian Society for Angiology and Vascular Surgery, and the Hungarian Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Society. The joint event will feature parallel sessions and joint plenary sessions providing a real translational medicine forum with the expected participation of 500+ clinicians.

Preliminary Scientific Programme

Plenary lectures: Two 2 h sessions including the 2nd Naranjan Dhalla Honorary lecture by David Eisner (Manchester, UK).

Symposia: one 2 h and five 1.5 h of the following topics:
- Recent progress in experimental cardioprotection
- Controversies in the cardiac pacemaker function
- Gender and cardiac pathophysiology
- Comorbidities leading to cardiac damage
- Translating basic science to clinical practice
- Effect of lifestyle and diet on cardiac physiology

Confirmed Invited Speakers

Dr. Devendra K. Agrawal (USA)  
Dr. Monika Bartekova (Slovak Republic)  
Dr. Mark Boyett (UK)  
Dr. Elisabetta Cerba (Italy)  
Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla (Canada)  
Dr. Dario DiFrancesco (Italy)  
Dr. Dragan M. Djuric (Serbia)  
Dr. Martin Morad (USA)  
Dr. Bohuslav Ostadal (Czech Republic)  
Dr. Grant N. Pierce (Canada)  

Dr. Péter Ferdinandy (Hungary)  
Dr. Ricardo J. Gelpi (Argentina)  
Dr. C.C. Kartha (India)  
Dr. Madhu Khullar (India)  
Dr. Ren-Ke Li (Canada)  
Dr. Gary Lopaschuk (Canada)  
Dr. Naoki Makino (Japan)  
Dr. Jan Slezak (Slovak Republic)  
Dr. Suresh Tyagi (USA)  
Dr. Andras Varro (Hungary)
Posters
Registered participants of the 4th IACS-ES meeting will have the opportunity to present research posters. The **deadline for submission** of abstracts **via** the http://iacses.com website was extended until **15 July**, and dispatch from abstract selection is continuous from 30 June.

Social Programme
Social and cultural programmes, promoting informal contacts between congress participants and contact with the rich cultural heritage of Pecs, will be important components of the 4th IACS-ES. Included are a concert by the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra followed by the welcome reception on Thursday, 28 September, a gala dinner on Friday, 29 September and guided sightseeing of Pecs for the accompanying persons. Excursions to the tourist attractions in the vicinity of Pecs will be offered at an extra charge.

Contact and Registration
For more information, updates and registration, please visit http://iacses.com or write to Rita.bognar@aok.pte.hu.

**We are looking forward to seeing you in Pecs!**

Ferenc Gallyas Jr.
President of the Organising Committee
27th Scientific Forum
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES
SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CARDIOVASCULAR INSTITUTE - SERVCOR
TRUTH IS JESUS - ST. JOHN 14,6

Grand Park Hotel
Campo Grande - MS
27-28 OCTOBER 2017

ORGANIZATION:
Prof. Dr. Otoni Moreira Gomes - MG
Prof. Dr. Ricardo Adala Benfatti - MS
Profª. Dra. Antoinette Oliveira Blackman - DF
Prof. Dr. Melchior Luiz Lima - ES

ORGANIZATION: COMMERCIAL SUPPORT: SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT:

• XXIII FORUM PROF. DR. NARANJAN S. DHALLA - SOUTH AMERICAN SESSION
• INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES

• II FÓRUM OF EXTRACORPOREAL CIRCULATION

• XIX ECUMENIC FORUM
  "TO HEAL THE WOUNDED HEARTS - ST ISAIAH 61,1"
  - ARCEBISPO DOM WALMOR OLIVEIRA DE AZEVEDO

• XIII BRAZILIAN MEETING ON CARDIOLOGY FOR THE FAMILY

• XVIII INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON CARDIOVASCULAR PHYSIOLOGY APPLIED

• XXVII ACADEMIC MEETING IN CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES

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www.heartacademy.org

CV Network Vol 16 No 2 • June 2017 21
International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences-Indian Section

10th International conference on Recent Advances in Cardiovascular Sciences (February 8-10, 2018)

Venue
Madurai - The Temple City

Organizers
Sankar Natesan, PhD, Professor, Department of Genetic Engineering, School of Biotechnology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-625021, Tamilnadu, India. Tel: 91-452-2459441; Email: iacsmku@gmail.com

Dr. A. Rathinavel, MS, MCh, PhD, Professor & Head, Department of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, Madurai Medical College, Madurai-625015, Tamilnadu, India. Email: arathinavel1965@gmail.com
5th European Section meeting of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS-ES)

ADVANCES IN CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
from basic mechanisms to therapeutic strategies

May 23 - 26, 2018
Smolenice Castle - Congress center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences
Bratislava, Slovakia

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Organizers
International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences - European Section
Ministry of Education of SR Institute for Heart Research Slovak Academy of Sciences
Slovak Physiological Society Slovak Society of Cardiology Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences

Under the aegis of Minister of Education of Slovakia
Under the auspices of International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences
European Academy of Sciences and Arts

CONTACTS
Institute for Heart Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Dúbravská cesta 9, P.O.B. 104, 840 05 Bratislava 45, Slovakia
Phone: 00421 2 3229 2403; E-mail: Jan.Slezak@savba.sk; Tatiana.Ravingerova@savba.sk
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, 10th ICCD:
Dr. Jan Fedacko, President, Anna Gvozdjakova, Dr. Ludovit Gaspar, Dr. Daniel Pella

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY (ICC):
Dr. Galal Nagib Elkilany (UAE), President (2018-19), International College of Cardiology
Dr. Hilton Chaves (Brazil), President (2016-17), International College of Cardiology (ICC)
Dr. Daniel Pella (Slovakia) Executive Director, ICC
Dr. Krasimira Hristova (Bulgaria), Secretary General, ICC
Dr. Ram B. Singh (India), International Coordinator, ICC

CO-SPONSORS:
International College of Cardiology
World Heart Journal, NY, USA
World Hypertension League

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:
- **Diabetes and Vascular disease Symposium.**
  Chairpersons: Dr Brian Tomlinson (Hong Kong), Dr Jaipaul Singh (UK)
- **World Hypertension League Symposium.**
  Chairpersons: Dr Krasimira Hristova (Bulgaria), Dr Hilton Chaves (Brazil), Dr Dragan Lovic (Serbia), Dr. Xin-Hua Zhang, Secretary of WHL (China), Dr Marcelo Orias, (Argentina), Dr. Daniel Lackland President of WHL (USA), Dr. Bader Almustafa, Middle East region, Dr. Anthony Heagerty (UK)
- **Echocardiography in Acute Coronary Syndrome.**
  Chairpersons: Dr. Galal Elkilan (UAE), Dr. Jan Fedacko (Slovakia)
- **Basic cardiovascular sciences in CVDs and diabetes.**
  Chairpersons: Dr. Pawan K. Singh (Canada), Dr. Devendra Agarwal (USA)
- **Cosmological and Chronobiological Aspects of CVD and Diabetes.**
  Chairpersons: Dr. Germaine Cornelissen (USA), Dr. Narsingh Verma (India)
- **Holistic Approach to Heart Health with Molecular Mechanisms in the heart and the brain.**
  Chairpersons: Dr. Ram B. Singh (India), Dr Brainislav Melovanovic (Serbia), Dr. Junjie Xiao (China)

NAMED LECTURES:
- Dr. Franz Halberg Memorial Lecture
- Dr. Navin Nanda Felicitation Lecture
- Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalli Felicitation Lecture

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS FOR BEST ABSTRACTS, THREE IN NUMBER (US$500):
Candidates submitting abstracts for this award will have to register in advance by paying US$300.00 along with the abstract (fee is nonrefundable).