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Ricardo Gelpi Elected as first President IACS – South America

by Ivan Berkowitz, Winnipeg, Canada



Ricardo J. Gelpi

Ricardo J. Gelpi, M.D, Ph D. has been elected to assume the role of President of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences – South America. Dr. Gelpi was educated at "Almafuerte" National Secondary School, La Plata, Argentina and earned a Bachelor in 1968. He took his medical training at La Plata University Faculty of Medicine in La Plata and has devoted his working career to his native Argentina. He is Professor; Director, Cardiovascular Physiopathology Institute; Chair, Department of Pathology; and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Buenos Aires University, Argentina. He did post-doctorate training at National Council of Scientific Research of Argentina(CON-ICET), Cardiovascular Research Center, La Plata University Faculty of Medicine, La Plata, Argentina, Director: Horacio Cingolani and New England Regional Primate Research Center (NERPRC), Harvard University, Boston, USA, Director: Stephen F Vatner. Subsequently, he has been a visiting researcher at

Harvard, University of Southern Alabama, Allegheny University and New Jersey Medical School. He has mentored 12 students. He has written more than 100 chapters, articles and abstracts. He is a member of Basic Science Council, American Heart Association and American Physiological Society. He has been honoured often by the Argentine Society of Cardiology, Salvador University, AHA and is a Fellow of the IACS.

The new Board of IACS – South America will be:

Honorary President: Horacio E. Cingolani (La Plata, Argentina)

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Director, Scientific Board: to be designated (Argentina)

A number of meetings are planned in Argentina and Brazil. The Academy will sponsor CARDIOFORUM SBC-FUNCOR 2004 - International Seminar on Promotion of Cardiovascular Health, September 26, Rio de Janeiro.

In Winnipeg in October, the Academy will host the concluding sessions of the International Intensive Cardiology Education Program in cooperation with Brazilian Society of Cardiology FUNCOR and Fundacao Cardiovascular Sao Francisco de Assis.

In November, the Academy will again be a sponsor of the XIV Scientific Forum and 1st Brazilian Congress on Cardiology for the Family organized by Dr. Otoni M. Gomes in Belo Horizonte. ♥

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Academy Elects Nine New Fellows

by Ivan Berkowitz, Winnipeg, Canada

President Howard Morgan is delighted to announce the election of nine new Fellows who are among 239 of the finest heart health professionals from 38 countries to be elected by the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. All Fellows have outstanding achievements in cardiovascular education and research and have made significant contributions to the health of people around the world.

Patrick Choy

Dr. Patrick Choy PhD, MD (Hon), FAHA Director of the Centre for Research and Treatment of Atherosclerosis, University of Manitoba, is an international leader in lipid and lipoprotein research. He is currently the Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Medicine, a Professor of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, with cross-appointment as a Professor of Pathology. He has served as the Vice-President of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba for many years, and chairs its Research Advisory Committee. He is the Chair of the Senior Scholarship Review Committee of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, and the Chair for the Grants Review committee of the NHPD/CIHR Natural Health Products. He also serves as a member of the NSERC/CIHR Collaborative Health Research Program review committee. He has been on the Expert Advisory Committee in Natural Health Products for Health Canada since 1999.



Sergio Dalla-Volta



Dr. Sergio Dalla-Volta is Professor Emeritus of Cardiology, University of Padua and Professor of Cardiology University (Veleuciliste) of Split (Croatia). He

graduated and earned Fellowship in Cardiology from University of Padua. He did post-doctorate work in Paris, Stockholm and Mexico City. His career has been at the University of Padua except for sabbatical years at Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York and Children's Hospital and Harvard University in Boston. He was the Howard Gillman Foundation Distinguished Visiting Scientist at Weill Medical College of Cornell University. He is the author or editor of 470 papers and 6 books. He is a member of distinguished societies in a number of countries including Italy, United States, Czech Republic, Hungary, Spain, Germany, Slovenia, Croatia and Slovak Republic. He has regularly been a referee for European Heart Journal, Circulation and Italian Heart Journal and for abstracts for AHA, ESC and ISHF. His fields of investigation have included heart failure, valvular heart disease and congenital lesions of newborns. In July 2003, Dr. Sergio Dalla-Volta received the Krayenbuhl Memorial Award for his research in the field of cardiac function.

Thomas H. Hintze

Dr. Hintze received his PhD degree from New York Medical College in 1980. He went on to a Post-doctoral Fellowship with Dr. Stephen Vatner at the New England Regional Primate Research Center, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and the Harvard Medical School. He returned to New York Medical College as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology and was promoted to Professor in 1993. Dr. Hintze has published more than 160 peer reviewed papers and 30 invited reviews, commentaries and book chapters. Dr. Hintze served in a number of capacities at the American Heart Association including: Chair of the Melvin Marcus Committee for the Council on Circulation and Chair of the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences. He was associate editor of Circulation Research and is currently associate editor of the American Journal



of Physiology, Heart and Circulatory Physiology. Dr. Hintze's research interests have largely focused on the coronary circulation; initially in the control of the coronary circulation by prostaglandins; then to reflex and adrenergic control of the coronary circulation; next to the control of ANF release; and most recently, the potential role of NO in the control of cardiac oxygen consumption and substrate use. Dr. Hintze is working on the concept that the capillary endothelial cells produce enough NO which then diffuses to the underlying parenchymal cells to modulate the activity of cytochrome oxidase and control cardiac cell oxygen consumption. In states where NO production is increased, exercise training and pregnancy, this control becomes a method to increase mitochondrial efficiency, whereas in states where NO production is reduced, heart failure and diabetes, this control becomes less perhaps leading to generation of superoxide and switching of substrate use by the heart. By chance, it appears that a number of drugs used in the treatment of cardiovascular disease including statins, amlodipine and ACE inhibitors, may regulate cardiac oxygen consumption through this mechanism. More recent studies using transgenic animals have attempted to sort out the signaling pathway for these control mechanisms.

Claude Lenfant

Dr. Claude Lenfant served as Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from July 1982 through August 2003. The Institute's mandate is to improve the public health through research on cardiovascular, lung, and blood diseases, sleep disorders, and transfusion medicine. The NHLBI conducts and supports a full spectrum of research activities, including basic and applied studies, population-based investigations, clinical trials, and demonstration and education projects. The Fiscal Year 2003 annual budget was nearly \$2.8 billion.



Prior to his appointment to the position of Director, NHLBI, Dr. Lenfant was director of the NIH Fogarty International Center (1981-1982) and Director of the NHLBI Division of Lung Diseases (1972-1980).

Dr. Lenfant came to the NIH from the University of Washington, Seattle, where he was a Professor of Medicine and Physiology and Biophysics. He received his medical degree from the University of Paris in 1956, and subsequently completed research fellowships at the University of Buffalo (now SUNY at Buffalo) and Columbia University. He holds Honorary Professorships from the National Yang-Ming Medical College, Taipei, Taiwan and from the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru. He received Honoris Cause degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo; Wake Forest University; the University of Modena, Italy; the University of Montpellier, France; and the Medical College of Ohio, Toledo.

Dr. Lenfant has been recognized, nationally and internationally, for his exceptional leadership and achievements. His honors include receipt of the American Medical Association's Dr. Nathan Davis Award and election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, to the USSR (now Russia) Academy of Medical Sciences, to the French National Academy of Medicine, to the Royal College of Physicians (London) and to the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. He is the recipient of the American Heart Association's Gold Heart Award and the Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award. He received the Award for Services to Human Health from the European Lung Foundation, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Chest Physicians, and the Outstanding Lifetime Service Award from the American Society of Hematology.

Dr. Lenfant is the author or co-author of more than 308 publications and the executive editor of the series of monographs "Lung Biology in Health and Disease," which currently comprises 183 volumes. He has served on the editorial boards of numerous scientific publications, including the American Journal of Physiology, the American Review of Respiratory Disease, the Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, and Continuing Education for Family Physicians.

Dr. Lenfant is currently the President of the World Hypertension League and in addition works on issues of chronic disease control in developing countries.

William W. Parmley

Dr. William W. Parmley is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard College (Summa Cum Laude in physics) and Alpha Omega graduate of Johns Hopkins Medical School. After training in cardiology at the NIH and Harvard, he was Professor of Medicine and Chief of Cardiology at the University of California San Francisco for 23 years. He is past President of the American College of Cardiology, past Chairman of the Cardiovascular Boards of the ABIM, and was editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology for 10 years. During his scientific career he made major contributions to our understanding of cardiac muscle mechanics, including length dependent and load dependent alterations in contractility. He helped introduce vasodilator therapy as a means of treating heart failure, together with other pharmacologic approaches. He now serves as a volunteer with the Church of Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City.



Enn Seppet

Dr. Enn Seppet is Professor of Pathophysiology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tartu, Estonia. He obtained his M.D. from the University of Tartu in 1974 and PhD from the USSR Research Centre for Cardiology, Moscow in 1980. His main fields of research are the compartmentalization and regulation of energy metabolism in cardiac and skeletal muscle cells; pathogenesis of the disorders of b-adrenergic signaling system and excitation-contraction coupling. His work has been cited in journals and books of international repute. He is a member of many international societies, including the International Society for Heart Research and the American and Finnish Physiological Societies. Dr. Seppet is well established as a teacher on pathophysiology of cardiovascular and renal disorders. In 1994-2000 he was a Vice-Dean of the Faculty, being responsible for development of medical curriculum and organization of the new centre of the biomedical research in Tartu.



Rajendar K. Suri

Dr. Rajendar K. Suri MS, FAMS, FIACS is Senior Consultant Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery and Emeritus Medical Scientist of the India Council of Medical Research and is actively involved in stem cells research using clinical retrodifferentiation techniques. After passing MS (General Surgery) at Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh, India, he underwent formal residency training in CTS at University of Toronto and was one of the 5 member team who performed two successful human heart transplantations in 1970. Later, as a Senior "WHO Fellow" for developing coronary artery surgery, Dr. Suri worked in London, Philadelphia, Boston and Houston. After returning to PGIMER, he led a wide range of development and training programs for heart and CAD surgery. He had a special quality for developing the use of new techniques, training and administration. He has published over 90 articles and made over 100 presentations around the world.

Bernard Swynghedauw

Dr. Bernard Swynghedauw PhD, MD, is Research Director (emeritus) at INSERM, Lariboisière Hospital (Paris France). He is Past president of FEPS. He won the Peter Debye award 1994 (Maastricht Un.). His main contributions: (1) First demonstration of the fetal reprogramming during cardiac mechanical overload with an isomyosin shift that explains the reduction in Vmax and a shift of the alpha subunit of the Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase that reduces the pump's affinity for sodium [Nature 1979; J Biol Chem 1994 ; Physiol Rev 1986]. (2) First evidence of an oncogenes expression in mechanical overload [JMCC 1988] and during restenosis [Circulation 1994] . (3) One of first transgenic models in cardiology showing the role of cardiac adrenoceptors in heart rate variability [CVR 1993; AJP 1996]. (4) First evidence of a myocardial production of aldosterone [JBC 1998] which is increased after MI [Circulation 1999] and explains myocardial fibrosis [Physiol Rev 1999]. (5) Demonstration of a push-pull mechanism during the tilt by using an instant time-frequency method of analysis of heart rate [Circulation 1997].



Kern Wildenthal

Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D. has been president of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas since 1986. He was the dean of the medical school at UT Southwestern for six years before



assuming his current position, and prior to that he had served as graduate school dean and professor of internal medicine and physiology.

During his administrative tenure, UT Southwestern has more than quadrupled in size and emerged as one of the leading medical institutions in the world. Four of its faculty have won Nobel Prizes, 14 have been named members of the National Academy of Sciences, and 40 have been elected as presidents of national societies of their clinical and research

specialties. Since 1986, total endowments have risen by over \$700 million; two referral hospitals and an outpatient facility have been added to the campus; and the first three buildings of a planned \$1 billion research complex have been completed.

He graduated from UT Southwestern Medical School in 1964. Between 1964 and 1968, he trained in internal medicine and cardiology at Bellevue Hospital in New York, Parkland Hospital in Dallas, and the National Heart Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. From 1968-70, he was a research fellow at the Strangeways Research Laboratory, Cambridge, England, and earned a Ph.D. in cell physiology from the University of Cambridge.

Dr. Wildenthal returned to Dallas in 1970 to join the UT Southwestern faculty. In 1975, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and returned to Cambridge for a year as a visiting scientist.

He has been chairman of the Science Policy

Committee of the Association of Academic Health Centers; chairman of the Basic Science Council and of the Science Advisory Committee, American Heart Association; chairman of the Research Review Committee of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; and editor of a number of scientific proceedings and publications. He is past-president of the American section of the International Society for Heart Research, and has been elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Wildenthal has served as a visiting professor or consultant at over 60 medical schools, universities and research institutes around the world, and has been a visiting lecturer and organizer of conferences in 22 countries. The University of Cambridge in England named him to its international Advisory Board, and in 1994 he was elected to an Honorary Fellowship in the University. ♥

PEOPLE AND PLACES

"Coronary Artery Disease: Molecule to Man"

by Dr Aniket Puri, Lucknow India



His Excellency, Sri Vishnu Kant Shastriji, Governor of Uttar Pradesh State (on the left) lighting the traditional lamp to bring wisdom assisted by Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director General (ICMR); Padamshri Dr. Khalid Hamid, Chief Executive, Cromwell Hospital, London, England; and Hon. Shri Mulayam, Chief Minister of UP

The Joint International Conference of International Society for Heart Research (Indian Section) and International Academy of Cardiovascular Science (India Section) was held at the Taj Hotel, Lucknow, India, January 9

-11, 2004. The Scientific Program was laid out by Prof. V.K. Puri, Head of the Department of Cardiology, K G Medical University and organizing secretary general of the Conference with the help of Prof. Pawan Singal, Education Director,

IACS. The conference was well attended with over 400 registered delegates and over 70 faculty. Guests were welcomed at a reception on Jan. 9 which gave them an opportunity to relax and network.

The program was a three day affair with almost 60 invited lectures running in two parallel halls, 2 workshops, free paper sessions, poster sessions, and award session for young scientists. Scientific deliberations on Day One started with a workshop on Electrophysiology conducted by Dr. K.K. Talwar from AIIMS, New Delhi. This workshop discussed tachy arrhythmias and accessory pathway identification followed by an interactive session with the audience participating to discuss difficult ECGs and EP tracings. Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director.General.(ICMR) and President of the India Section of ISHR and IACS delivered the presidential address on rheumatic heart disease and its vaccine development. Dr. Lindsay Brown (Australia) who is also the Organizing Secretary of the World Congress of Cardiology (Australia, Aug 2004) spoke on echocardiography in rats with chronic hyper-

tension and heart failure Dr. Sudhir Kushwaha from the Mayo Clinic USA spoke on perspectives of heart failure management based on recent trials. Other prominent speakers in the morning parallel session on basic science were Dr. R. Kukreja (USA); Dr. D. D. Das (USA); .Dr. K. Agrawal (USA); Dr. B. McNamara (USA); Dr. M. Anand; Dr. I. Singh (USA); Dr A. Srivastava (Canada); and Dr O.N. Tripathi (Lucknow). The post lunch session had parallel sessions on acute coronary syndrome and congenital heart disease along with basic research. Speakers were Dr. R.K. Goyal (Ahmedabad,India); Dr. .S.S. Chauhan (New Delhi); Dr N. Maulik (USA); Dr. S.K. Gupta (New Delhi); Dr. M. Singh (India), Dr. S.K. Maulik (Delhi); and Dr. M.P. Gupta (USA). The entire day's program was an amalgam of the cutting edge in clinical as well basic research currently going on in the field of cardiology.

The Inauguration of the conference was done in the evening by the Honorable Governor of the State of UP and was presided over by the Chief Minister of the State. At this occasion, the Academy honored 4 distinguished scientists with awards which were presented by the Governor, namely Dr. N.K. Ganguly (New Delhi) with Dr. Norman Alpert Award; Prof. V.K. Puri (Lucknow) with Distinguished Service Award in Cardiovascular Science and Medicine; Prof. S.K. Gupta (New Delhi) with Distinguished Service Award; and Dr. Sukhinder Kaur Cheema with the Naranjan S. Dhalla Young Scientist Award.



K.K. Talwar and N.K. Ganguly, winner of Norman Alpert Award.

This was followed by a Gala Dinner which was enjoyed by all after a day of hectic deliberations.

On Day Two, the program started with the Plenary Session on Basic Heart research with prominent speakers including Dr. P. K. Singal (Canada); Dr. J.L. Mehta (USA); Dr. R. Chandra



V.K. Puri, P. Venugopal and K.K. Talwar

(Switzerland); and Dr. S. Kushwaha (USA). The session was followed by two Keynote Addresses. Dr. Naranjan Dhalla (Canada) spoke about his latest research on Up reg. of beta receptor signal in heart failure which was very provocative to the current concepts of heart failure. Then, Dr. Venogopal, the Director of AIIMS, New Delhi showcased his latest work on the use of stem cells in MI. This was followed by another plenary session of clinical topics covered by Dr. F.H. Leenan (Canada); and Dr. M.F. Shiu (UK). These plenary lectures were followed by parallel sessions on resynchronization and the use of pacemakers and ICDs in heart failure along with basic research with talks from Dr. H. Sharma (Netherland); Dr. I. Dixon (Canada); and Dr. Wagner Padua (Brazil). After lunch, there were two important debates on statins and the role of angioplasty in acute MI. Free papers and poster sessions in both the basic research and clinical research segments were conducted with great enthusiasm and well appreciated. There were symposia on the role of genes in heart disease and the role of exercise and lifestyle modification in heart disease. Dr. S.C. Manchanda from AIIMS talked on the role of Yoga; Dr. S. Kaur Cheema (Canada) spoke on why the blame is placed on dietary fats and cholesterol; and Dr. C.C. Kartha (Trivandrum,India) on exercise and endothelium. Dr. N. Nanda (USA) showed how echo can be used to see coronary arteries without angiography. This was followed by a workshop by him and Dr. S.K. Parashar on tissue doppler imaging. The day concluded with an extraordinary banquet dinner hosted by Prof. V.K. Puri at the Jehangirabad Palace with a cultural program, fireworks and sumptuous delicacies from the city of Lucknow.

The final day started with a session on cutting edge technologies in CAD with talks by Prof. V.K. Puri (Lucknow); Dr. K. Parikh

(Ahmedabad); Dr. MF Shiu (UK); and Dr. B. Bhargav (Delhi). The parallel session was on risk factors in atherosclerosis. These sessions were followed by the prestigious Dr. P.L. Wahi Oration which was delivered by Dr. Navin Nanda (USA), one of the pioneers in echocardiography who spoke beautifully on the role of 3 dimensional echo and how this field is evolving. Dr. N.S. Dhalla introduced Dr. Wahi and spoke at length about his contribution to the field of cardiovascular science. Dr. Nanda was honored with a plaque following his oration. The meeting concluded with a lecture by Dr. K.K. Talwar (New Delhi) who spoke on a journey in the management of heart failure: "From where we were – to where we are". The meeting concluded with the Young Scientist Award session, and the award this year went to Dr. Harpreet Gilhotra of King George Medical University (Lucknow) for his work on the role of GIK in Acute MI. The valedictory function concluded the meeting with the next meeting planned for Ahmedabad.

Media interest in the Conference was tremendous with daily reports in all newspapers and on television. The crush of reporters at the Inauguration was overwhelming. The meeting at Lucknow was well appreciated, well attended, and well organized as was concluded by the chiefs of the society and they hoped the next conference in January 2005 in Ahmedabad would be able to maintain the momentum which had been generated at Lucknow. Guests returned to Delhi and visited the Taj Mahal and other historic places in India while continuing discussions to improve global heart health. ❤️



Ivan Berkowitz with the Nascimento and Paduas from Brazil at the spectacular Taj Mahal

Extraordinary Meeting Held in New Delhi

by Ivan Berkowitz, Winnipeg, Canada

The first meeting of the India Section of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences was held on January 7-8, 2004 in New Delhi at the Hotel Grand. The International Symposium on Pharmacotherapy of Heart Failure was co-sponsored by the International Society for Heart Research (India Section) and Indian Pharmacological Society. Professor Naranjan S. Dhalla, Academy Executive Director and CEO was the Chief Guest and Professor Pawan Singal was the Guest of Honour.

A highly successive gathering of scientists from all over the world included clinicians, pharmacologists and academics working in the field of cardiovascular sciences. About 300 professionals attended the Symposium. Delegates from USA, Canada, Brazil, Israel, Denmark, Netherlands and Germany also participated in the event and presented their valuable contributions during the conference.

Some of the important topics presented during sessions included role of oxidative stress and antioxidants in heart failure, renin angiotensin system and its blockade in cardiovascular diseases, COX inhibitors as antiatherosclerotic



Organizing Secretary, Suresh Gupta performed the Lamp Lighting, a traditional highlight of the Inauguration, assisted by Chairman of the Organizing Committee K. K. Talwar, Pawan Singal and Naranjan Dhalla

newer drugs such as PPAR agonist, sildenafil, ranolazine and glycoprotein iib/iii receptor antagonist in cardiology were also discussed.

A special session was devoted for the "Young Scientist Award" in which five of the best pre-

reception at a delightful club in Delhi. The Punjabi song and dance program and foods of the region delighted guests throughout the evening. Participants enjoyed exchanging scientific information and mutual friendship.

The initiative for the Symposium grew from a meeting when Dr. Gupta met in Winnipeg with Dr. Dhalla and Director of Development, Ivan Berkowitz. In recognition of his exceptional efforts, Chief Minister Shri Mulayam, presented the Academy's Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Gupta during the subsequent Joint International Conference in Lucknow, India. ❤️



N.S. Dhalla, Canada; S.K. Agrawal, India; W. Padua, Brazil; S.K. Gupta, India; R. Nascimento, Brazil; and K.K. Talwar, India

agents, insulin sensitizes as protective agents in endothelial dysfunction, new advances in β blocker therapy and herbal drugs for prevention of cardiovascular diseases. In addition, role of

sentations were included in the contest. The panel of International Judges under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.S. Dhalla awarded the first and second prize. The meeting was highlighted by the cultural program and welcome



Chief Minister S. Mulayam and S.K. Gupta

REMEMBERING SPECIAL PEOPLE

Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, Executive Director of the Academy, commented with humble gratitude: "We are so very pleased to have received a contribution from the Myles Robinson Memorial Heart Fund which will go a long way to promote cardiovascular education far beyond the boundaries of Winnipeg. This contribution is a most fitting tribute to the ideals of Myles Robinson. The support to the Academy is a wonderful example for others to follow."



Myles Robinson

25 years ago, the Winnipeg community was dealt a shattering blow. Myles Robinson, a devoted father of five young children and an extraordinarily successful home builder, died suddenly of a massive heart attack. A

group of his friends and business associates joined with his family to perpetuate his memory in a tangible way by creating the Myles Robinson Memorial Heart Fund. Carrying on in his memory as Trustees are Harold Buchwald, Chair; Ivan Berkowitz, Secretary; Jack Levit; Bernie Wolfe; John Rae; and Luis Oppenheimer.

The Trustees determined that the proceeds should be invested annually in stimulating the career of a young person at the University of Manitoba devoted to research in heart health. With incredible good fortune, the Trustees selected surgeon-researcher, Dr. Luis Oppenheimer, to be the first Myles Robinson Scholar. Buoyed by his enthusiasm to stay in Winnipeg, his appointment was extended for 12 years during which Dr. Oppenheimer achieved amazing success both in his research and as a surgeon, rising in Manitoba's administrative health structure to become Director of Research of the Health Sciences Centre and its Research Foundation, and Head,

Department of Surgery, University of Manitoba.

Dr. Anton Lucas, St. Boniface Hospital Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, was the second Scholar, appointed for six years. His laboratory continues its efforts to elucidate potential interventions to protect the heart against various aspects of ischemic injury, with a focus on ischemic preconditioning and the mechanisms underlying this cardioprotective intervention.

In 2002, Dr. Ian Dixon, St. Boniface Hospital Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, was selected as the current Myles Robinson Scholar. His research focuses on understanding cardiac fibrosis after myocardial infarction. Recently, the Trustees received Dr. Dixon's annual report on his activities and were amazed to hear of the outstanding successes achieved in the past year, including his service as Assistant Editor of CV Network.

The Trustees decided that out of deep respect for Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla, a special undertaking should be pursued in memory of his late son, Samraj Dhalla, whose untimely demise occurred in September at the age of 45. Like Myles Robinson, Sam Dhalla died of sudden cardiac



Sam Dhalla

arrest even though he was much too young and had so much to live for.

They concluded that a financial contribution towards the expansion of CV Network was very much within the vision of the founders of the Myles Robinson Memorial Heart Fund promoting cardiovascular education, research and patient care.

Also, they recognized this opportunity to make the world aware of the foresight of a small group in Winnipeg, Canada who pooled some funds and have seen an incredible return on the investment in three young scientists who, first and foremost, were encouraged to continue their work in this burgeoning centre of cardiovascular research. The nominal financial contribution to their work has stimulated their being able to attract many times the amount in other grants. Most importantly, they have grown in stature and been recognized for their achievements in many ways.

Indeed, the current Trustees, take this opportunity to throw out a challenge to others. When faced with the overwhelming loss of fine people like Sam Dhalla and Myles Robinson, turn that negative into a positive investment in the future of heart health by developing a mechanism like the Myles Robinson Memorial Heart Fund to support the work of young professionals who will produce results to improve the chances to avoid such disasters. ♥



Prasun Kumar Das

Prasun Kumar Das was born Sept. 13, 1927. Dr. Das earned M.Sc (Pharm), M.D. (Med) and M. Sc. (Pharma) in India. In pursuit of academic excellence, he worked in Glasgow, Oxford, London,

Winnipeg, Grand Forks (USA), Washington, Helsinki, Tripoli and Benghazi. For 25 years, he was Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology, Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU Varanasi, India. From 1985 to 1991, he was Professor in the Medical Faculty, Al-Fateh University, Tripoli, Libya. On four occasions, he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. In 1998, he served as Visiting Professor in College of Medical Sciences, Bharatpur, Nepal. His desire to spend his life in Medical Education continued as Chief Medical Consultant (Modern Medicine) of the Free

Medical Consultancy Unit of Bengali Durgabari Society in Meerut Cantt until his death in 2003.

Dr. Das served on many administrative, national societies and universities. He wrote the book "Multiple Choice Questions, Pharmacology with answers and explanations" and monographs. He wrote more than 300 articles and reviews in national and international journals and was selected to deliver prestigious orations. He was recognized as a Fellow of the Indian College of Allergy and Applied Immunology in 1968; Senior Medical Fellowship of Commonwealth Universities Association, U.K. in 1969; Fellow of Indian Academy of Medical Science in 1976; Fellow of Indian Pharmacological Society in 1996; and Fellow of International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences in 2002. Special Honours for Lifetime Contributions were bestowed with a named symposium at the World Congress in Winnipeg in 2001 and an annual endowed P.K. Das

Award for Young Investigators in Cardiovascular Pharmacology by Indian Pharmacological Society in 2002.

Dr. Naranjan Dhalla has very special memories: "I learned cardiovascular pharmacology and research from Dr. P. K. Das while we worked together at the Lady Hardinge Medical College in New Delhi during 1957 - 61. It was he who inspired me to study in the United States and to undertake challenges in finding solutions to some of the cardiovascular problems. He was more than a close friend as I felt he was my older brother."

Prasun Kumar Das had a keen desire to promote the scientific basis of cardiology in India. He indeed was a great human being and a compassionate teacher. Dr. Das has definitely made the world a better place and he will be missed by friends and colleagues in many lands. ♥

Teaching Courses in Europe



The course is featured by the University of Copenhagen in collaboration with the Danish Cardiovascular Research Academy (DACRA), Copenhagen Heart Arrhythmia Research Center (CHARC) and the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS)

Sudden Unexpected Cardiac Death – new diagnostic modalities and treatment. Genetics in cardiovascular disease - Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-18 June 2004

The course deals with sudden unexpected cardiac death. The aim is to give an overview on genetic causes for cardiovascular disease. In particular arrhythmias (long QT syndrome, Brugada's syndrome, arrhythmic response to medication etc), cardiomyopathies, metabolic diseases, congenital heart disease and hyperlipidemia. The clinical importance of genetic investigations will be discussed. Methods suitable for individual diagnostics as well as screening of a population will be described. Ethical and bio-bank aspects in relation to cardiovascular genetic research will be discussed. Target groups for the course are cardiologists,

other clinicians and researchers as well as PhD students interested in arrhythmia and cardiovascular genetics. There will be lectures, discussions and practical applications featured by national and international experts. The course language is English.

Course fee is 900 EURO. Travel, accommodation and meals not included. Accommodation at various costs will be available. The number of participants will be limited to around 30. For further information contact Deputy Executive Secretary IACS Europe Thomas A Schmidt, MD, DSc: tas@dadlnet.dk. Enrolment no later than 14 March 2004. ♥



The dying, the crippled, the mentals, the unwanted, the unloved are Jesus in disguise
- Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Anyone over 50 who believes in God must be a jackass
- Lord Burleigh

The course is featured by the General County Counsel for Continuous Medical Education, Copenhagen, La Facolta di Medicina et Chirurgia, Universita degli Studi de Roma and the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS).

In December 2004, we have scheduled a new teaching course concerning the importance of

Faith and Disease – Focus on the importance of faith in heart disease – Rome, Italy, 1-5 December 2004

faith in heart disease. The course is open to all physicians and researchers interested in aspects of health and faith. The course will take place in a Brigittine cloister - Casa di Santa Brigida at Piazza Farnese - in the heart of Rome. St. Birgitta was born in Sweden and is the patron of Scandinavia and Europe. The 700th jubilee of her birth is currently being celebrated.

Modernism and rationalism have claimed many victories and science has changed many aspects of life. Nevertheless there are still millions of people in the world today who believe that there is more between heaven and earth than one can observe or measure.

Many physicians are sceptical towards religion and particularly towards intercessory prayer. It has been thought of as something curious. On the other hand, for more than 2000 years the Catholic Church has taken sacraments and miracles seriously. Recently the very prestigious British Medical Journal dedicated an entire volume to issues concerning scientifically proven effects of predominantly Christian prayer on states of disease (vol. 323, 22,

December 2001). Other high impact medical journals, e.g. the American Heart Journal have also published articles showing measurable effects of intercessory prayer. In other words: Faith is on the verge of (re)-gaining impact in the medical community.

As lecturer at the course we present Fr Michael Hornbech-Madsen, Copenhagen, Fr. David Clemens, London, and Fr. Josef Bisig, FSSP, Rome as well as medical doctors with various fields of expertise – we shall carefully review publications regarding effects of intercessory prayer. Focus is due on miracles, anointing of the ill, flesh and spirituality. Health and disease in relation to the various major religions will be discussed. We schedule to visit a Roman hospital, the Sisters of Charity (Mother Theresa's order), and St. Peters. Lectures will be in English.

Course fee is 1500 EURO. Accommodation and meals included. Travel not included. The number of participants will be limited to around 30. For further information contact Deputy Executive Secretary IACS Europe Thomas A Schmidt, MD, DSc: tas@dadlnet.dk. Enrolment on first come first serve basis. ♥

A Unique Meeting is being planned for Turkey

by Ivan Berkowitz, Winnipeg, Canada



Dr. Turan and Slezak as they began planning the meeting in Turkey when they were visiting professors at the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences in Winnipeg

The Academy is pleased to announce confirmation from NATO to support an Advanced Research Workshop – "An International Workshop on Stress-Induced Biochanges in the Heart – from genes to bedside". It will be held February 2-7, 2005 in Antalya, Turkey.

The Planning Committee is:

HON. CHAIRMAN:

NARANJAN DHALLA

CO – DIRECTORS:

BELMA TURAN

JAN SLEZAK

Other Committee Members:

KELD KJELDSSEN

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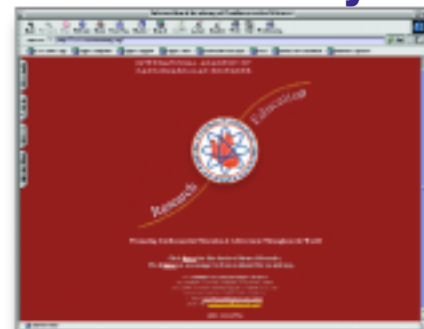
IVAN BERKOWITZ

This ARW is intended to extend and disseminate knowledge and will contribute to the understanding of basic pathophysiological mechanisms involved in stress signaling and adaptation as well as modulation of myocardial ischemic tolerance.

It will contribute to the understanding of the common mechanisms of cell signaling in different forms of myocardial protection against stress conditions.

Dr. Turan recently reported: "I am doing OK for the meeting. I am preparing a final official invitation letter to the key speakers. I will send the final list together with the web-page draft to NATO. Most probably, I will prepare our web-page connected to Ankara University web page. In summary our workshop will be announced with the web-page and also in the list of NATO ." 

Visit The Academy At:



www.heartacademy.org

Rheumatic Fever Crisis in Mongolia

by B. Burmaa and D. Enkhtuya, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia




Dr. B. Burmaa

In Mongolia, cardiovascular disease is responsible for several thousand deaths each year. Hemolytic streptococcal infection, chronic rheumatic disease/damage and heart disease are very serious problem for Mongolian cardiologists. The sickness rate is increasing year by year.

In Mongolia, laboratories are able to make a diagnostic test and reveal just hemolytic streptococci, the screening of hemolytic streptococcal group is not determined at all.

A survey on cluster sampling among university

hospital patients aged 20-60 years was conducted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The survey results showed that mortality and sickness from valvular disease of the heart caused by rheumatism has been increased by over 55 % among the working-age population. Nevertheless, the sickness rate from this particular kind of heart defects among men of working age is still several times higher than in retired age. In the majority of cases cardiologists diagnose the disease only based on clinical symptoms and heart condition of the patient. In 1998, the percentage of 20-29 aged patients was higher then for 1999 and 2000 each. The sickness rate has remained the highest among patients aged 40-49. Herdsman and workers from rural areas are the most affected by rheumatic fever and rheumatic mitral stenosis, valve incompetence.

Prevention and early diagnosis of rheumatic fever are not made at a satisfactory level in terms of quality both in urban and rural areas. A big concern for us, Mongolian doctors is the fact that many cases affected by chronic rheumatic disease/damage are noticed mainly among adults compared with the younger population which leads to situations when they lose the capability to work and apply for medical assistance in a very late stage after having heart failure because of rheumatic mitral stenosis and mitral incompetence. Unfortunately, deaths among these patients are quite high as a result of limited financial sources to afford the expenses needed for cardiac surgery. 

9



Dr. Sukhinder Kaur Cheema receives the 2004 Naranjan Dhalla Award.

2004 Dhalla Award honours Sukhinder Kaur Cheema

Biochemistry from Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India, in 1986, holding Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Junior and Senior Research Fellowships throughout her Ph.D. program.

After obtaining her Ph.D. degree, she joined as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Calgary, where she spent one year, and then joined an oil company as a research scientist. This is when she realized that her passion was to explore new ideas in research, and to have the freedom to do the same. In 1990, she joined as a research associate at the University of Alberta, where she had a chance to work in a nutritional biochemistry laboratory with Dr. Tom Clandinin. In 1994, she joined The Lipid & Lipoprotein Research Group, a world-renowned group, at the University of Alberta, to learn state-of-the-art techniques in transgenics and gene therapy, working with world leaders in lipid & lipoprotein research, Dr. Lou Agellon and Dr. Dennis Vance. In 1999, she became an assistant professor at the Department of Biochemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. For the last 13 years, she has been working in the area of nutrition and gene regulation, especially related to cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity.

Dr. Kaur Cheema holds several research grants from the leading national granting agencies, including Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council, and Canadian Foundation for Innovation. She has published 36 full-length peer-reviewed papers in leading international journals, and presented 38 papers at National and International conferences. She has already graduated three students from her own research group.

She serves as a reviewer for National granting agencies, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada, and Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council and also for international scientific journals, and serves on the Editorial Board of an international journal "Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry". She also serves on the Board of Executives, International College of Nutrition.

She holds the Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Award. She was recognized for her contributions in the area of "Nutrition & Metabolism" at the International Congress of Clinical Nutrition, held in London, England, in 2002 and has been invited to speak at several universities, nationally and internationally. ♥

The International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences was delighted to recognize Dr. Sukhinder Kaur Cheema as the 2004 winner of the Naranjan Dhalla Award for young investigators in cardiovascular sciences. The Award was presented at the recent Joint International Conference in Lucknow, India by His Excellency, Sri Vishnu Kant Shastriji, Governor of Uttar Pradesh State.

Dr. Kaur Cheema received her B.Sc. degree from Punjab University, Chandigarh, in 1980, and stood 2nd in the university. She obtained M.Sc. degree in Biochemistry from Punjab Agricultural University, India, in 1982, with 2nd position in the university, scholarships and merit awards. She obtained her Ph.D. degree in

IGNACIO CHAVEZ RIVERA SYMPOSIUM ON CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

ORGANIZED BY:

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FRIDAY APRIL 30, 2004

AUDITORIUM "DR. RAUL FOURNIER" FACULTAD DE MEDICINA, CIUDAD UNIVERSITARIA UNAM, MEXICO D.F.

For details, please contact: Dr. Pawan K. Singal, Education Director, IACS
Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences

St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre, Winnipeg, Canada
Telephone: (204) 235 3485 · E-mail: pawan_singal@sbrcc.ca

IACS Japan Section Meeting

July 17-18, 2004

Osaka-Senri, Japan

The 4th Annual Meeting of IACS Japan Section

(The 27th Japanese Working Group on
Cardiac Structure and Metabolism).

Chairman: Ryoji Matoba, MD, PhD.
Osaka University.

Email: matoba@legal.med.osaka-u.ac.jp

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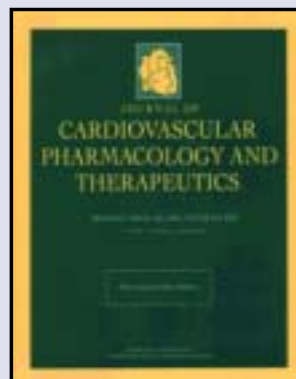
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- Prof. Dr. Pawan K. Singal
- Mr. Ivan Berkowitz

- MORE INFORMATION:
- w.padua@pib.com.br



Special Announcements



1

Director of Development, Ivan Berkowitz is delighted to report on receipt of a most gracious letter from Hon. Tim Sale, Manitoba's Minister of Energy, Science and Technology informing the Academy of a generous contribution from the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund to support the advancement of research and education efforts of the IACS.

2



Buoyed by the extraordinary success of the International Conference held in Lucknow, India, Jan. 9 - 11, 2004, the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences and the International Society for Heart Research (Indian Section) have announced plans for a second Joint International Conference- "BENCH to BEDSIDE in GHANDI's GUJARAT", January 7 - 8 - 9, 2005. Grand Bhagwati, Grandhinagar - Sarkhej Highway, AHMEDABAD, INDIA. For details, please visit the web site: <http://www.indianheart.com/conference/index.html>
Or contact the Conference Co-ordinator: Dr. Ramesh K. Goyal, Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, L.M. College of Pharmacy. P.O.Box 4011 Navarangpura, Ahmedabad, 380 009, India. E-mail: goyalrk@hotmail.com

3

A dynamic new event is planned for Brazil - CARDIOFORUM SBC-FUNCOR 2004 - International Seminar on Promotion of Cardiovascular Health. For details, contact - Coordinator for International Affairs. David Brasil. Tel: +55-31-3281-2027 E-mail: davidb@pib.com.br

4

IACS - South America will again be a sponsor of XV Scientific Forum and 1st World Congress on Cardiology for the Family. Nov. 25 - 27, Belo Horizonte, Brazil. For details, please contact Dr. Otoni M. Gomes, Rua Manoel Lopes Coelho, 365 - Itapoa - 31710-530 Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil Tel: +55-31-3444-8807 / 3441-2254 (res.)
E-mail: gomes@sevicor.com.br

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