IUPHAR GI Section

This was a prominent and productive year in the life of IUPHAR GI Section. Altogether 5 scientific events were organized in various countries of the world where the IUPHAR GI Section was the main or co-organizer.



Participants of ISCTICO in front of Kyoto International Community House, where the

The 16th ICUR (International Conference on Ulcer Research), Seoul, Korea

This conference with long-standing tradition was organized by Prof. Baik Hahm (currently vice-president of IUPHAR GI Section) - the first ever held in Korea! The meeting was held in the Grand Hilton Conference Center in Seoul, Korea, March 22-24, 2018. The theme of the conference was "inflammation and cancer", with heavy emphasis on pharmacologic prevention and treatment. It also had a lot of clinical relevance, in good part because this ICUR was held in parallel with the annual meeting of the Korean Society of Gastrointestinal Cancer (KSGC) and International Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists (IASGO). The main topics, suggested by the IUPHAR GI Sections include gastric cytoprotection & GI tissue protection, ulcer pathogeneses & development of GI-safe NSAIDs. In addition to plenary lectures, short oral platform presentations and poster sessions were held with participation of international experts and young investigators, especially from Korea, Japan and China. We very much appreciate the excellent organization by Prof. Baik Hahm who also put together an attractive cultural program and sightseeing tour that included historic regions of Seoul.

The 6th Summer School on Stress, Osaka, Japan

These annual summer conferences are focused not only on the physiologic aspects of biologic stress, but on stress-related disorders, particularly, on inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and its the pharmacologic treatment. Furthermore, functional disorders, like irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) are increasingly linked to severe and repeated psychologic distress. Therefore, both IBD - IBS, and their pharmacologic modulations are prominently featured at all the Summer Schools on Stress that after



ISCTICO Standing Committee, 2018: Professors K. Takeuchi, L. Filaretova, K. Gyires S. Szabo (one of the founders) and D. Chen

Budapest (Hungary), Zagreb (Croatia), Grenoble (France), Osijek (Croatia) and Komarno (Slovakia) (the family home town of Hans Selye, the discoverer of stress) has been now held in Japan, June 23-26, 2018 in Conrad Osaka. The chair of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) was Prof. Kazuhide Higuchi, Osaka Medical College, Osaka, thanks to the support of Prof. Tetsuo Arakawa, president of Osaka City University. Traditionally, the scientific programs of the Summer School on Stress are put together by the Selye International Institute for Advanced Studies, the IUPHAR GI Section, the University of California-Irvine, School of Medicine and the LOC. In addition to internationally known experts, numerous senior and junior investigators from Japan covered topics such as the history of stress research, neuroendocrine mechanisms of stress reaction, distress vs. eustress, effect of stress on immune response, various stress-related disorders and diseases; PTSD and management strategies for stress. The next 7th Summer School on Stress will be organized by Prof. Ludmila Filaretova in Saint Petersburg Russia, in June 25-28, 2019.

The 10th International Symposium on Cell/Tissue Injury and Cytoprotection/Organoprotection (ISCTICO), Kyoto, Japan

Shortly after the Summer School on Stress in Osaka, this long-running symposia series was continued with ISCTICO, that focused on GI pathophysiology & pharmacology, especially on "gastric cytoprotection"/gastroprotection, and cell/tissue injury in other organ systems was held in nearby Kyoto, Japan, June 28-30, 2018. This traditional symposium of IUPHAR GI Section was organized this year by Prof. Koji Takeuchi, Kyoto Pharmaceutical University. The main topics included Novel drugs and therapeutic strategies in GI diseases; New insights into the mechanisms of GI injury, protection and healing; Mechanisms of NSAID/stress-induced tissue injury and protection; Cytokines, gas mediators and antioxidants in GI protection; GI cancer and chemoprevention. The Andre Robert Award, named after the discoverer of 'gastric cytoprotection' was established in 2014 by IUPHAR GI Section for prominent, internationally recognized researcher in GI pharmacology/physiology, was received this year by Prof. Yvette Tache (USA) and Prof. Tomas Brzozowski (Poland). These awards were first given out in 2014 at the 8th ISCTICO (Budapest), then in 2016 at the 9th ISCTICO (Krakow). The outstanding scientific program, the hospitality of Prof. Takeuchi and his team, as well as the excellent social events made unforgattable this symposium. The next ISCTICO is planned to be held in Pecs in Hungary in 2020.



Group of the participants of ISCTICO in the Conference Hall of Kyoto International Community House

Our activities at the 18th World Congress of Pharmacology (WCP), Kyoto, Japan



Professors S. Okabe, J. Wallace and S. Szabo at WCP

This WCP followed the 10th ISCTICO and was organized in the modern Kyoto International Congress Center, July 1-7, 2018. The IUPHAR GI Section was very active in the preparation and execution of the program, thanks to the hard work of Profs. Duan Chen and Koji Takeuchi. Our Section prepared several GI plenary lectures and symposia, e.g., Brain-gut axis, organized by Nathalie Vergnolle and Ludmila Filaretova; Translational research

in GI pharmacology - Novel therapeutic strategy in GI diseases, organized by Sandor Szabo and Akinori Yanaka. Furthermore, in the program section of Translational science through an open innovation platform, chaired by Prof. Koji Takeuchi, a plenary lecture was given by Dr. John Wallace on NSAID-induced gastrointestinal damage and design of GI-sparing NSAIDs.

At the business meeting of IUPHAR GI Section Prof. Duan Chen, the president of the Section (2014-2018) gave a short overview on the activities of the GI Section during the last 4 years. Then, as during the previous years, the vice-president, Prof. Klara Gyires (Hungary) was elected as president for the next 4 years (2018-2022) and Prof. Ki Baik Hahm (South Korea) was elected for the position of the vice-president, while the new secretary post was given to Dr. Zoltan Zadori (Hungary). Outstanding events were at our business meeting the lectures of "Lifetime Achievement " given by Prof. Sandor Szabo and Koji Takeuchi who received Lifetime Achievement Awards from president Duan Chen.

Special IUPHAR GI Section Symposium: PRECANCEROUS LESIONS AND NEOPLASMS OF GI TRACT, Praiano (Amalfi coast), Italy

The subtitle of this international symposium, with heavy Italian participation was "Inflammation, genetics, and news for the prevention", was organized by Prof. Gaetano Iaquinto October 26– 27, 2018 in the picturesque in Praiano, on the beautiful Amalfi coast, not far Naples. The program included both basic science and clinical presentations, and covered topics like Why gastric cytoprotection is still relevant? From cell injury to checkout inhibitors and mechanisms of cancer immunotherapy; H. pylori and gastric cancer; Liver diseases and hepatocarcinoma; Inflammatory bowel diseases and colon cancer; Protective agents in inflammatory bowel diseases. This 2-day symposium was very successful, in part due to the participation and stimulating in discussions of basic science researchers and clinicians as well as due to the relaxing social program and great hospitality of Prof. Iaquinto' s team in a very attractive environment of the famous Amalfi coast.



Group of the Italian and international participants at the Symposium on Precancerous Lesions and Neoplasm of GI Tract, Prainao

Prof. Klara Gyires (Budapest, Hungary), chair of the IUPHAR GI Section and Prof. Sandor Szabo (Irvine, California), former chair of the IUPHAR GI Section.