Welcome Letter from the President



It is my great pleasure to write this welcome letter as new president of IUPHAR. I am still deeply honored for being elected by the delegates IUPHAR at the outstanding WCP2018 conference in Kyoto. It is indeed a great challenge to be successor of Sam Enna, who led this society highly successfully and with great commitment as President and before as Secretary General for a total time of 12 years.

However, I am more than happy to be member of an enthusiastic team, with Michael Spedding, Secretary General, previously secretary or chair of NC-IUPHAR from 1992, James Barrett, Treasurer, being Councillor before, and Kristen Kovach, Executive Officer, working for the Parthenon Management Group, our new administrative service provider. Moreover, the entire IUPHAR Executive Committee gives its input through monthly video conferences that work very well and bring our various activities forward.

Since its foundation as independent association in 1965, IUPHAR became the highly respected umbrella organization of national basic and clinical pharmacological societies. Its reputation is based on its various attempts to promote international cooperation through the globally highly attractive WorldPharma congresses. At this point, I like to congratulate and to thank firmly the Japanese Pharmacological Society (JPS) and the Japanese Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (JSCPT) for performing the highly successful World Congress of Pharmacology 2018 in Kyoto. Congress President Shuh Narumiya, Vice President Shinichi Kawai and Secretary General Masamitsu Iino and their entire team have done an excellent job to make this congress a fantastic event of pharmacological sciences that significantly contributed to the visibility of IUPHAR and the discipline in general.

Major input comes from the various highly active IUPHAR sections and subcommittees that foster the global development of the disciplines of basic and clinical pharmacology. Great visibility became the tremendous work of the IUPHAR Committee on Receptor Nomenclature and Drug Classification (NC-IUPHAR) with now 33 subcommittees. In collaboration with the British Pharmacological Society, the “IUPHAR/BPS Guide to Pharmacology” became the ultimate reference source for all scientists working in the field of basic research and drug development. The currently developed “IUPHAR Guide to Immunopharmacology” is a fantastic extension that opens opportunities of cooperation with the International Union of Immunology. In the beginning of October this year, I had the chance to meet the leading persons behind these data bases at the exciting Immunopharmacology Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. The achievements of these unique public available data resources need to be continuously maintained and expanded but also require financial support. This deserves one of our main activities.

A further important field that needs further attention is the IUPHAR Pharmacology Education Project (PEP) that is currently generously supported by our member societies ASPET, CNPHARS,

JPS and HSEC. It is obvious that profound knowledge in pharmacology and excellent skills in medical prescribing are prerequisites of high-quality medical services. PEP is already known as a highly attractive online repository that is worth to visit. Its further development and support should be our goal.

When visiting the World Health Organization in late September this year together with the Secretary General and Caroline Samer, Executive Board Member and Liaison Officer to WHO, it became rapidly clear that WHO is extremely keen to get support to train physicians in good prescribing. IUPHAR with its broad educational and clinical pharmacological knowledge could be a genuine WHO partner to foster activities in this and other fields.

IUPHAR needs also to deal with the fact that the discipline of pharmacology faces challenges partly with decreasing numbers of professorial chairs in some regions. IUPHAR will therefore closely interact with national societies to exchange information and to seek the contact to the public. In particular, there is an increasing need of scientific exchange, education and training, objectives being the key mission of IUPHAR. Moreover, these challenges covering basic and clinical pharmacology and many more disciplines come up against traditional medicines. There is the need to foster the gain of knowledge on potential novel compounds, on the PK/PD of defined ingredients of natural products and the consequences of its intake also with respect of drug interactions. IUPHAR as global umbrella organization has a unique responsibility to deal with these issues as well.

The various IUPHAR subcommittees are a perfect basis to foster the various objectives through interaction with regional societies and to bring these topics onto the agenda.

Finally, in order to achieve our mission, IUPHAR has decided to revise its governance. This process is of major importance and aims to increase the visibility and influence of IUPHAR in cooperation with national societies, to stronger involve its delegates into the many activities of IUPHAR and to secure financial support to realize these tasks. We are grateful that major societies of IUPHAR will give full support in this matter.

Over the next years, I am looking forward to a close and fruitful collaboration with the people working enthusiastically on the various committees of IUPHAR and with the representatives of our national member societies.

With best wishes



Ingolf Cascorbi