

1995 SPRING MEETING PROGRAM
CSI MEMBERSHIP IN CFBS UNDER REVIEW



BULLETIN

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY

SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'IMMUNOLOGIE

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A Message from the President

As many of you know the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies (CFBS) of which CSI is a member has experienced some serious financial difficulties and as a result they have reorganized the Ottawa Office including changes in personnel and reduced the budget for Science Policy activities.

One CFBS employee who was not renewed was Dr. Clement Gauthier, CFBS Science Policy Officer who functioned as a professional lobbyist on our behalf in Ottawa.

Our membership in CFBS is questioned at nearly every CSI meeting since a large part of our dues (\$55.00) is required to pay the CFBS levy. However, in the past it has been felt that membership in CFBS was important to maintain a strong Science Policy voice through the efforts of Clement Gauthier. With the decision not to renew Clement's appointment I am certain that even greater concern will be expressed regarding our continued membership in CFBS.

I attended the 41st meeting of the CFBS Board of Directors meeting on your behalf in Montreal in June. I discussed the issues outlined above with Dr. Leon Browder, University of Calgary who is the president of CFBS.

In order to better inform the membership I have taken the following action with the approval of the executive.

I have asked Dr. Browder to write a reply to my letter both of which are published in this edition of the Bulletin. In addition I have asked Dr. Ken Rosenthal, McMaster University, CSI Science Policy representative, to express his views on the impact that the reduced CFBS budget will have on Science Policy activities. Ken's comments are also published in this edition of the Bulletin.

We have also invited Dr. Browder to attend the CSI meeting in March '95 at Lake Louise to meet with CSI members and to outline the CFBS Science Policy Programme in light of the reduced budget for Science Policy. (Dr. Browder has accepted our invitation).

Dr. Browder will attend both the CSI council meeting on Saturday March 25 and the Annual General Meeting on Sunday March 26 1995.

I urge all CSI members to attend the '95 meeting at Lake Louise since some very important decisions regarding the future membership of CSI within CFBS may be made. If you are unable to attend I invite you to express your views to any member of the executive regarding the issues discussed above.

Wayne S. Lapp

Un message du Président

Comme nombreux d'entre vous le savent, la Fédération Canadienne des Sociétés Biologiques (FCSB), dont la SCI est membre, a connu d'importantes difficultés financières. Elle a donc réorganisé l'office d'Ottawa, restructurant les Ressources Humaines et réduisant le budget des Activités Scientifiques.

Un des employés de la FCSB qui n'a pas été réengagé est le Dr. Clément Gaythier, Officier de la Question Scientifique, qui agissait en tout que représentant d'un groupe de pression en notre nom à Ottawa.

Notre candidature à FCSB est constamment remise en question durant les rencontres de la SCI car une large partie de nos cotisations (55.00\$) paie notre contribution à la FCSB. Cependant, notre contribution à la FCSB a été ressentie importante le passé afin de maintenir une forte Politique Scientifique à travers les efforts de Clément Gauthier. Je suis certain que la décision de suspension du poste de Clément va soulever encore plus d'inquiétudes concernant notre candidature à la FCSB.

J'ai assisté à la 41^{ème} réunion de l'Assemblée des Directeurs de la FCSB en votre nom à Montréal, en juin dernier. J'ai discuté des questions soulignées ci-dessus avec Dr. Leon Browder, Université de Calgary, Président de la FCSB.

Afin de mieux informer les membres, j'ai pris les décisions suivantes en accord avec l'exécutif.

J'ai demandé au Dr. Browder d'écrire une réponse à ma lettre (ces deux documents étant publiés dans cette présente édition du Bulletin). J'ai aussi demandé au Dr. Ken Rosenthal, Université de McMaster, représentant de la Politique Scientifique de la SCI, d'exprimer son opinion du sujet de l'impact de la réduction du budget de la FCSB sur la Politique d'Activité Scientifique de la SCI. Les commentaires de Ken sont aussi publiés dans cette édition du Bulletin.

Nous avons aussi invité le Dr. Browder à participer à la réunion de la SCI en mars 1995 au Lac Louise afin de rencontrer les membres de la SCI et de mettre en évidence le Programme de la Politique Scientifique de la FCSB, en regard de la réduction des budgets pour la Politique Scientifique. (Dr. Browder a accepté notre invitation).

Le Dr. Browder assistera à la réunion du Conseil de la SCI (samedi 25 mars 1995) et la Réunion Annuelle Générale (dimanche 26 mars 1995).

J'encourage tous les membres de la SCI à participer à la Réunion '95 au Lac Louise, car des décisions très importantes au sujet du futur de la candidature de la SCI à la FCSB pourraient être prises. Si vous êtes dans l'impossibilité d'y participer, je vous invite à exprimer vos opinions concernant les problèmes évoqués ci-dessus aux membres de l'exécutif.

Wayne S. Lapp

ensure that those needs are met. To that end, I would encourage any of you who have additional questions about CFBS or advice about policies that CFBS should pursue to contact me. (My address is listed at the bottom of this letter.)

An obvious question that arises is: "What evidence is there that CFBS is effective and has had, or will have, a significant effect on Science Policy in Canada?"

It is difficult to provide satisfactory answers to questions about the effectiveness of our science policy activities, because no appropriate control exists to permit a valid comparison. However, we believe that our activities do have a valid impact, as we hope that the examples provided below will demonstrate.

Since the election of the Liberal Government, CFBS has established regular and effective contacts with Dr. Jon Gerrard, the Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development), as well as with administrators responsible for science funding within the Ministries of Industry and Finance. In response to our concerns about the dearth of representation for the biological sciences on NSERC Council, we were invited by the Secretary of State to submit a list of potential candidates. We submitted six names for the positions presently open and will submit other candidates as new positions on Council become available.

We were actively involved in the Strategic Planning exercises undertaken by both MRC and NSERC during the past year. While mainly satisfied with the new MRC Strategic Plan (although we must remain vigilant with regards to funding of basic research in the face of increasing emphasis on health research), we are much less convinced that NSERC is heading in the right direction. In an effort to establish a more open dialog with NSERC, the Federation sent a memo to all members of the NSERC Council that underlined our concerns about the future of the Research Grants Program and requested a meeting with Council to discuss this and other matters of concern to biologists. In response to actions such as ours, the NSERC Council passed the following motion at their meeting in mid-June "Council reaffirms its belief in the foundational role of the Research Grants Program in supporting all kinds of university-based research in science and engineering, and in training highly qualified personnel in these fields. Council will seek vigorously to maintain and enhance the Research Grants Program in the future, as it has done in the past." Such action, in response to pressure from the research community is unprecedented and provides evidence that lobbying efforts can bear fruit. To follow this up we have requested an informal meeting with NSERC Council on Sunday October, 16th just prior to their meeting on the 17-18 October in Montreal. CFBS has taken the initiative on this venture, and we are actively contacting organizations representing other natural science disciplines to encourage their participation, should Council agree to such a meeting.

At the present time we are taking an active role in the Federal Government's on-going Science and Technology review, providing input at the local, regional, and national consultations. CFBS is encouraging the Government to adopt a balanced approach to the support of basic and applied research, one that recognizes the primary role of basic research in a modern knowledge-based economy. Here, it is important to emphasize that our science policy efforts pertain to both biological and biomedical research carried out in universities and in government and corporate laboratories. Although most of our

members are university scientists, the plight of government scientists is an important concern, particularly in light of recent documents such as "Forestry Canada. Professional Employees Opinion Survey: Summary of Survey Results". CFBS will bring this document and other evidence of the erosion of research capabilities in Agriculture Canada, NRC, etc. to the attention of the politicians to ensure that research in critical areas impacting primary productivity in Canada are not suffocated by inept middle management.

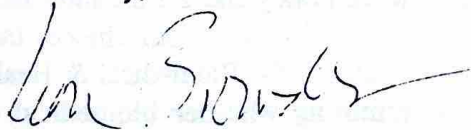
The effectiveness of our contributions towards the public awareness of science is apparent. For example, the Federation has played an active role in getting its members to participate in Industry Canada S&T Week (in 1993 we organized 17 public lectures across Canada) and to join Innovators in the School Network (currently 450 members participate). We also produce "Science Sources", which provides a guide for the media to experts in different disciplines of the biological and biomedical sciences in Canada. Science Sources, which is the only directory of its kind, has been extremely well received by the media and educators alike. An updated, bilingual version and an electronic version are presently in preparation. In recent years CFBS has recognized the efforts of its members toward increasing the public's awareness of science by awarding the Gordin Kaplan Award annually. In addition, Industry Canada recently asked CFBS for input into the guidelines for the Michael Smith Award for Science Promotion. Subsequently, one of our nominees will serve on the selection committee for this new award.

Another service that we are preparing for our members is an electronic Directory of CFBS members, which will be on line within six months.

A challenge to CSI members:

It is evident that in the present political climate basic science is not considered a high priority. In an attempt to bring science education and research to the forefront of the political agenda, CFBS must play an increasingly active role as an advocate for Canadian bioscience. To do this effectively, CFBS needs input from both our constituents. In a proactive move, CFBS has arranged for the establishment of BIOCAN, an electronic means of interactive communication among members of the bioscience community, and full details on its use were provided on page 24 of the 1994 Spring Newsletter. We urge you to continue your support of CFBS and to use BIOCAN to transmit your opinions/ideas to the CFBS Executive. Alternatively, you may contact me directly by email. My email addresses is: browder@acs.ualgary.ca.

Sincerely,



Leon Browder
President, CFBS

Ken Rosenthal (McMaster) has been the CSI/SCI Science Policy Officer for a number of years. Wayne Lapp invited his contribution which is printed below.

Dear CSI members:

The issue of whether or not to remain a member of the CFBS comes up at nearly every CSI council meeting when we are informed of our financial contribution to the CFBS (over \$9,000/yr). In the past it was argued that it is money well spent primarily because the CFBS maintained a Science Policy Officer, Clement Gauthier, who served as a strong voice and presence in Ottawa concerning science policy. For financial reasons, the CFBS recently reorganized its office in Ottawa and made several changes in personnel. The CFBS will hire a single individual to serve as both Executive Director and Science Policy Officer. In addition, CFBS which was a full member of the Coalition for Biomedical and Health Research (CBHR) at the cost of \$80,000/yr, has become an Associate Member of CBHR for \$20,000/yr. Further, the Entomology and Phyto Pathology Societies have withdrawn from CFBS and two other societies, Genetics Society of Canada and the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists are considering withdrawing from CFBS. Clement Gauthier has taken a position of Executive Director of the CBHR.

In light of the restructuring of CFBS and its possible implications on Science Policy activities in Ottawa, our society is once again faced with the decision of whether or not to remain a member of CFBS. I see this question coming down to two issues: 1) determining how important CFBS is to the CSI and, 2) how CSI can get the most Science Policy bang for its buck. The Canadian Society for Immunology is a strong, active, and independent Society. We hold our own Annual meeting, whose popularity continues to increase. I am not certain how many of our members regularly choose to attend the annual CFBS meeting or how useful these meetings are to our members. I presume given the increased number and specialization of meetings one can spend their grant money on, that few of our members regularly attend CFBS meetings.

The CSI has and continues to play an active role in Science Policy activities, notably through our affiliation with CFBS. Overall, I am not certain how effective our efforts at working *with* government to educate our politicians and the public with regard to the importance of R&D/S&T have been. Given the current cutbacks of funding for Universities and the cap on granting councils research budgets, one can safely say we have not been too successful.

How can the CSI continue to play an active role in Science Policy and get the most bang for our buck? Clearly, the CSI cannot have much of an impact on its own. Our choices then are to remain a member of CFBS or, alternatively, join the coalition for Biomedical & Health Research (CBHR). **This comes down to our society determining whether biomedical or natural science issues are most critical to us.** CFBS has a number of member societies whose activities in the natural sciences have little relationship to biomedical activities/issues. These member societies feel, rightly so, that spending a lot of money on biomedically-related issues, such as the Drug Patent Legislation, is not relevant to them. The mandate of CBHR, which was initially founded in part by CFBS, is to foster an increase of funding for Canadian biomedical and health research activities, as well as inform the general public and government of the

progress and value of these activities. The CFBS was a full member of CBHR which cost \$80,000 and permitted nomination and election of three Board members. Recently, due to financial constraints and concern over balancing biomedical and non-biomedical science policy issues, the CFBS opted to become an Associate member of CBHR which costs \$20,000, permits one voting Board member, and full participation and voting on Coalition committees. Other Associate members of CBHR include the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. The next category of membership is Adjunct member of CBHR, this costs \$5,000 and permits observer representation on the Board, full participation and voting rights on Coalition committees. Current Adjunct members of CBHR include the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation, College of Family Physicians of Canada.

CSI must decide whether biomedically-related or non-biomedically related science policy issues are most relevant to us. Whether we stay a member of CFBS or become an Adjunct member of CBHR, I feel it is critical that CSI maintain an active commitment and role in promoting the support of a strong research community in Canada.

Kenneth L. Rosenthal
CSI/SCI Science Policy Officer

**A PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR THE
9th SPRING MEETING
OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY
TO BE HELD AT CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE,
LAKE LOUISE, BANFF, ALBERTA**

**from the afternoon of Friday, March 24, to midday Monday, March 27,
1995**

The Subjects and Chairs of the three Symposia will be:

***NORMAL AND MALIGNANT LYMPHOCYTES: GROWTH FACTORS,
PROTO-ONCOGENES AND ADHESION*** DR. LINDA PILARSKI,
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

MOLECULAR MECHANISMS IN LYMPHOCYTE DEVELOPMENT
DR. CHRISTOPHER PAIGE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

CO-STIMULATION OF THE IMMUNE RESPONSE DR. TREVOR OWENS,
McGILL UNIVERSITY

WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD ON:

***T CELLS, CYTOKINES AND IMMUNOREGULATION: WHO IS DOING
WHAT TO WHOM?*** (Chair, Dr. K. HayGlass, University of Manitoba)

IMMUNOPARASITOLOGY (Chairs, Dr. M. Stevenson, McGill University;
Dr. M. Belosevic, University of Alberta)

SIGNALLING AT THE LYMPHOCYTE SURFACE (Chair, Dr. M. Gold,
University of British Columbia)

ANTIGEN PRESENTATION/PROCESSING (Chair, Dr. D. Williams,
University of Toronto)

Information packages will be mailed in early November.

Deadline for receipt of Abstracts, Early Registration, and application for
Student Travel Awards : January 1, 1995

Normal and Malignant Lymphocytes: Growth factors, proto-oncogenes and adhesion

Chair: Linda M. Pilarski, University of Alberta

This session is designed to explore the relationships between the behavioral properties of normal and malignant lymphocytes and the underlying functional links between growth factors, proto-oncogenes and adhesion. Normal lymphocytes extravasate and invade tissue as part of their routine job description in a response to antigen. The interactions of proto-oncogenes in normal cells and deregulated oncogenes in malignant cells with cytokines/growth factors and adhesion receptors are central to cell migration or invasive spread.

Molecular Mechanisms in Lymphocyte Development

Christopher J. Paige

Director, The Wellesley Hospital Research Institute

Professor, Departments of Medical Biophysics and Immunology

University of Toronto

Lymphocyte development is marked by the progression of cells along lineage pathways. Essential traits that distinguish cells as they progress to the mature, functional stages, are sequentially expressed or repressed. Underlying this highly reproducible process are mechanisms of gene expression which regulate the timely appearance and disappearance of gene products which define lineage progression. Of current interest is the identification of those products that are critical for lymphocyte development and defining the function of those products.

Co-stimulation of the Immune Response

Trevor Owens, McGill University, Montreal

Mature immune cells are likely to share with other cells a requirement for signal input, in the absence of which they initiate the apoptotic pathway of programmed cell death. Immune cells have evolved a parallel requirement for second signals for their activation to effector function. Thus, recognition of antigen by B or T cells is not only insufficient for effective response, but in the absence of costimulatory second signals, leads to death via anergy and apoptosis. This may be seen as a "failsafe" mechanism, designed to prevent possibly deleterious (auto)-immune responses. Costimulatory ligands, their receptors and the biochemical signals they engage are of enormous clinical and fundamental interest. Immune cells may have designated hierarchies of ligands for costimulation, possibly for differential signal engagement. If we could understand these hierarchies, how the choices are made, and how cells are signalled through these ligands, we could envisage controlling immune cell activation, e.g., to turn OFF autoimmune responses, graft rejection and tumours of the hemopoietic system, or to turn ON anti-tumour and other host-protective responses.

The symposium will consider cellular interaction as a fundamental survival signalling mechanism, in covering CD28/B7 signalling for T cell costimulation, CD40 and adhesion molecule costimulation for B cell and macrophage costimulation, and clinical implications.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM "Molecular Biology of Allergens and the Atopic Immune Response"

Co-Chairmen: Dietrich Kraft and Alec Schon
February 18-22, 1995; Québec City, Canada

sponsored by the
International Union of Immunological Societies
International Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

OUTLINE OF PROVISIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

- I. Recombinant Allergens
Moderators: W. Thomas - J. Lamb

New methods for cloning recombinant allergens; their relationships to natural allergens as determined by their B and T cell epitopes, and their immunological and physicochemical characteristics.
- II. Animal models of IgE-mediated allergies and asthma
Moderators: A.L. de Weck - H. Okudaira
- III. Genetics of atopy: A model for complex diseases
Moderators: D.G. Marsh - W.O.C.M. Cookson

Analysis of candidate genes for atopic diseases, including IL4 and FcRI β ; potential functional roles of these candidate genes; genetic analysis of complex diseases; molecular studies of complex diseases.
- IV. Regulation of IgE Responses
Moderators: J. de Vries - S. Romagnani

Modulation of IgE-mediated diseases by cytokines secreted by T cells and inflammatory non-T cells; the role of adhesion molecules in the pathogenesis of asthma; anti-IgE auto-antibodies; the effect of anti-idiotypic antibodies and of allergen-antibody complexes.
- V. Novel immunotherapeutic strategies
Moderators: K. Ishizaka - P.S. Norman

Anergizing T cells by T cell epitope-containing peptides; deletion of B ϵ cells by antibodies to isotype-specific epitopes; downregulation of B ϵ cells by soluble IL-4 receptors; entrapment of IgE by soluble Fc ϵ receptors; rush immunotherapy; use of modified allergens; inactivation of IgE-bearing effector cells.
- VI. Round Table: Future therapies: Perspectives and Problems
Moderators: J. Bousquet - B. Wallner

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This Symposium is being held under the auspices of the
Research Center of the Laval University Medical Center
Additional information available from:

Dr. Jacques Hébert
Symposium Secretariat
Laval University Medical Center (CHUL)
2705 Laurier Blvd.
Sainte-Foy, Québec
Canada, G1V 4G2

FAX: (418) 654-2714

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The U.S. Clinical Immunology Society (CIS) is sponsoring the following two events:

1. **Autoimmunity 1994:** A symposium co-sponsored with the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology, November 4-6, 1994, Dolphin Hotel, Orlando, Florida.
2. **Immune-based Therapies Workshop,** January 27-29, 1995, Stouffer Harborside Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland.

For information regarding these two events, please contact: CIS Registration Manager, 6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, NJ 08086; 609-848-1000.

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The Jeffrey Modell Foundation and the Division of Clinical Immunology of the Mount Sinai Medical Center are sponsoring the following event:

THE FIFTH JEFFREY MODELL IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYMPOSIUM: ***Advances in Primary Immunodeficiency Disease***

October 10-11, 1994
Le Méridien Montparnasse, Paris, France

For information regarding this event, please contact the Jeffrey Modell Foundation at 43 West 47th Street, New York, NY 10036, (212) 575-1122.

WE MOURN TRACEY MACKENZIE, M.Sc., M.D., C.C.F.P.

On June 29th, 1994 Tracey MacKenzie, age 31, died in Halifax in a car accident on her way to assist in a delivery: she was on call. Attempts to save her own, unborn baby girl failed.

Tracey came to my lab in 1985 as a student in the M.D./Ph.D. Program, University of Toronto. She entered into intense studies of the IgE committed B cell sublineage. Her sister had succumbed to asthma and Tracey's commitment to the field was strong. Tracey was an outstanding student in my laboratory. She was one of the rare young colleagues that already early in their career achieved scientific recognition nationwide. When she first came up with her "story" of non-rearranging IgM/D/E co-producers (J. Exp. Med. 169:407, 1989) it was presented at the CSI meeting in Banff. There, she single-handedly debated a large crowd of senior immunologists who failed to shake her composure or arguments in a spirited, unforgettable session. Here was surely a promising young scientist. Tracey since received her M.D. and just completed her internship. She never lost contact with the lab, her clinical interests were still directed towards environmental diseases. We mourn the tragic loss of her sharp intellect, warm compassion, her incisive humour and strong commitments.

The members of our laboratory, the Department of Immunology and the Canadian Society for Immunology mourn Tracey and we offer our deepest sympathies to her husband David Reid and his family, her parents Keith and Roberta MacKenzie and their family.

Hans-Michael Dosch, M.D.
Professor of Paediatrics and Immunology
University of Toronto
The Hospital for Sick Children