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BULLETIN

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY

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Message from the President:

The last year has been a difficult period for immunologists and scientists in general, as the granting agencies are faced with increased numbers of high quality proposals at the same time as they must cope with a decreasing quantity of funds to allocate for research. University budgets are also decreasing, putting more pressure on our scarce grant funds for administrative costs such as phones etc. As the membership is aware, CSI council voted to rescind their letter of withdrawal from the Canadian Federation of Biological Sciences (CFBS). In large part, this decision was based on the energetic science policy efforts being mounted by CFBS. A new science policy officer, Dr. Paul Hough, has been employed and his contacts in the Ministry of Science and Technology are providing us with a means to discuss and provide input to government policy decisions that affect all of us. CFBS Executive Council, on which I sit as President of CSI, is in close contact with Dr. Hough via regular E-mail, and our input is being requested on issues as they arise. In order for this to be maximally effective, there needs to be a mechanism for me to consult as widely as possible with the CSI membership. I am thus asking members who want to be part of the consultative process to let me know via E-mail. I can then forward information and requests for opinions to you and hopefully receive comments from you in return. This process will only work effectively if as many as possible of our membership participate. Perceptions of a problem will necessarily vary in different locations. My e-mail address is: lpilarsk@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

CSI Council also voted to appoint two new science policy officers, CSI councillors **Tim Lee (Dalhousie; leet@tupdean1.med.dal.ca)** and **Bruce Elliott (Queens; elliottb@qucdn.queensu.ca)**. Congratulations Tim and Bruce. Your willingness to take on this demanding job is much appreciated by all of us. Dr. Ken Rosenthal, who served for many years as our very effective science policy officer has retired from the position and we are extremely grateful for all of his service to CSI in this capacity. Science policy cannot be pursued by two people in isolation. It is crucial that you keep your representatives informed about your views and ideas for pursuing our goal of more government appreciation and support of the fundamental role basic science plays in the personal well being of Canadians and for the Canadian economy as biotechnology becomes big business.

I am optimistic about the lobby process now occurring as it stresses regular interactions between Dr. Hough and the CFBS Executive. We are kept well informed about issues being discussed by Drs. Gerard and Manley, who are key participants from Government. While we may not, and probably will not be able to increase the funds allocated to medical research, we can influence the way the available pot of money is allocated. Even more important, we can/must increase the awareness of the members of Government about medical research and encourage a positive attitude to research as a fundamental and central contributor to our national well being, in terms of health and of economics. I feel it is extremely important that we are aware of the issues facing us and the potential ways to minimize the impact of funding cuts to MRC and elsewhere. I need to know how you feel about what is happening, whether it is fair and equitable, and what you think may/should be done.

Initiatives requiring support/participation from CSI members:

1. Survey to assess MRC changes on CSI members: It is impossible to effectively communicate with government in the absence of information about the views our members have about MRC. **Dr. David Hoskin, Dalhousie University (dwhoskin@ac.dal.ca)**, has agreed to take on the task of canvassing CSI members to determine how they feel about MRC changes and their impact on research programs. This will only be meaningful if as many as possible of CSI members participate. His results will assist our science policy officers, as well as allow us to give meaningful input to CFBS, and perhaps to MRC itself, on changes or on suggestions for changes to MRC policy. Dave Hoskin discusses this in more detail later in this issue of the Bulletin. Thanks for agreeing to take this job Dave.

2. Industrial partnership in lobby efforts: CFBS has launched a new initiative to seek funds from industry for support of the annual lobby effort mounted by the Science Consortium. This lobby, which usually takes place over several days, brings scientists to Ottawa for one on one meetings with Members of Parliament and Ministers in Government. CFBS is finding that their reduced membership dues do not fully cover this effort. Since industry benefits from the new knowledge we create, government support for basic research is as important for them as it is for us. In order to make productive contacts with Canadian Industries, Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick as CFBS Science Policy Officer, has requested that an individual from each member society be designated to help organize contacts with industry. This individual should be someone who has good links with industry and who is willing to take an active role in eliciting funding support from them. **THIS LETTER IS A CALL FOR A VOLUNTEER TO INTERFACE WITH INDUSTRY.** In my view this is a central aspect of our efforts to raise the profile of research with government (is unfortunately quite low for most Ministers and MPs) and a liaison between basic science and industry will be a powerful one. If you are willing to help, please contact me as soon as possible.

3. Contact with members of Parliament: A second initiative being promoted by CFBS is to introduce members of Parliament to research goals and to the research community through invitations to visit laboratories. I urge CSI members to contact your Member of Parliament and invite him/her to visit your lab and learn about the importance of your research, and by extrapolation of research community generally. We need to know what our representatives in government know and expect from the research community. I would appreciate knowing about these meetings when they take place so that CFBS can track the extent of our contacts with government.

4. Examples illustrating the impact of funding cuts: Finally, CFBS is compiling a "dossier" of specific examples to illustrate the impact of research, to highlight the effects of funding cuts, and anecdotes to make research more accessible to non-scientists. Paul Hough would like information/examples of a) how our research funds are spent (e.g. personnel, consumables, equipment, communication costs, animal care, equipment maintenance) as a general accounting rather than detailed expenditures; b) the kind of results or knowledge that came from research that would not be available if such work had not been supported (as well as unanticipated results or work that lead to completely different discoveries from those initially anticipated); c) the impacts of funding cuts on students and research assistants; and d) the impacts of teaching loads,

the need to find alternate source of research funding or the need to perform targeted rather than curiosity based research.

Specific examples that reflect a general truth are often the best way to make the impact of funding changes clear to government. Dr. Hough refers to this as "a casebook of impacts and outcomes". His final report will be anonymous/generic; names will not appear. Please send your responses to these questions either to me at the e-mail address below, or to **Dr. Paul Hough** at cfbssp@hpb.hwc.ca. I urge you to help with this important initiative. If we don't speak up, no one will.

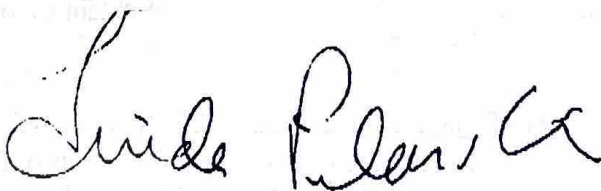
CSI Membership Issues

The work of CSI in maintaining science policy efforts and in the awards for posters and travel at our annual meeting depend upon membership fees. A distressingly large number of CSI members have forgotten to pay their dues, and regrettably, many of our colleagues in immunology are not members of CSI. At this crucial period of financial downsizing, it is more important than ever that we speak with a united voice to government and our Society, together with CFBS, is by far the most effective way to do this. Membership dues are essential for funding science policy. They are also a form of commitment to the science policy effort. We all need to publicize CSI within our Departments and at seminars, and distribute membership forms (see this Bulletin for copies).

To encourage membership in CSI, travel awards or poster prizes will be available only to those trainees who are themselves members of CSI and whose supervisors are members in good standing of CSI. The membership process has been facilitated by authorizing John Wilkins, our Secretary/Treasurer, to give approval for membership with final ratification by Council at our annual meeting. This means dues are sent in together with the membership application, and the applicant becomes a member quickly. So urge your colleagues to join now. It's important and it benefits their trainees.

Finally, as of the upcoming meeting non-CSI members will pay higher registration fees to offset the costs of the meeting that are borne by CSI members in good standing. Details of the exciting scientific program for the March meeting are included in this Bulletin. Please publicize the meeting to your colleagues.

Best Wishes,



Linda M. Pilarski
CSI President

Dear Colleagues,

RE: Survey of CSI/SCI members on recent changes to the MRC

As you know, the mandate and policies of the MRC have undergone several recent changes which may well have considerable impact upon the research programs of CSI/SCI members. In order to gather the views of CSI/SCI members regarding these changes, Linda Pilarski and the CSI/SCI Council have asked me to prepare a survey which will be distributed at the 1996 CSI/SCI Meeting. The responses to this survey will be collected into a document which will allow the CSI Council to more effectively communicate our views on these vital issues to CFBS, MRC and the government. Two issues which will be addressed in this survey are (1) the incorporation of health-related research into the mandate of MRC and the resulting impact of this on biomedical research funding and (2) the MRC policy of modifying the budgets of MRC operating grants on the basis of rankings obtained in the funding competition. However, I am certain that there will be areas of concern to CSI/SCI members regarding additional issues which you would like to see covered by the survey. Please forward your comments or suggestions to me at least several weeks in advance of the 1996 CSI/SCI spring meeting. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

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"NK and CTL recognition and lytic mechanisms"

Chairperson: **Kevin Kane** (Edmonton)

Recent major advances have provided a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms of recognition and action of both cytotoxic T lymphocytes and natural killer cells. It is timely to describe current progress in this area.

Suzanne Lemieux (Institut Armand Frappier, Laval, Quebec)

Triggering and regulation of NK lytic process

Ten Feizi (Glycosciences Lab, Harrow, UK)

Lectin-mediated effector functions in NK cells

Kevin Kane (University of Alberta, Edmonton)

CTL and NK receptor recognition of class I MHC molecules

William Clark (University of California, Los Angeles)

Regulation of lytic pathways in CTL

Chris Bleackley (University of Alberta, Edmonton)

Induction of apoptosis by cytotoxic T lymphocytes: cell-mediated immunity enters the ICE -Age

"Cytokines in Transplantation"

Chairperson: **Reg Gorczynski** (University of Toronto)

A major goal in clinical organ transplantation research is to develop and understand protocols that can induce the development of graft-specific tolerance. There is still considerable controversy on the association of cytokine profiles (particularly Th1 vs Th2) with the induction and/or maintenance of tolerance. In addition, it is not clear what role is played in this process by activation induced death (apoptosis), or resistance to the mechanism(s) of apoptosis. The different speakers selected for this symposium will present an up-to-date critique of this contemporary area of immunological research.

Maggie Dallman (Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine, London)

Cytokines in Transplantation - measurement and manipulation

Tim Lee (Dalhousie University, Halifax):

The TH1/TH2 paradigm and transplantation tolerance

Phil Halloran (University of Alberta, Edmonton)

The regulation of MHC expression in vivo: lessons from the knockout mice

Chris Larsen (Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta)

The role of CD28 and CD40 Costimulatory Pathways in Allograft Rejection

Li Zhang (The Toronto Hospital, Toronto)

Induction of transplantation tolerance and its mechanisms

WORKSHOPS

"Cellular and Molecular Events in Lymphocyte Differentiation"

Chairpersons: **Susanna Lewis** (University of Toronto) and **Patrice Hugo** (IRCM, Montreal)

There are numerous important transitions in localization, TCR/Ig gene rearrangement, display of lymphokine receptors and acquisition of functional responsiveness that take place as an undifferentiated precursor cell achieves status as a fully functional part of the immune system. We invite abstracts on all aspects of T and B cell development from the earliest defined precursor stages, through the later key transitions and on positive and negative selection. Authors of selected abstracts will have 5 minutes to present up to three slides.

"Immunoparasitology"

Chairpersons: **Chris Chadee** (McGill, Montreal) and **Barbara Mann** (Virginia)

Co-chair Barbara Mann, our special guest, will speak for 20-minutes on the galactose adherence lectin and vaccine development against *Entamoeba histolytica* followed by a 10-minute discussion period. Then based on abstracts submitted for posters, we will select and contact each potential speaker who will be asked to give a 5 minute presentation with 2-3 slides or overhead transparencies. Key words that reflect topics discussed in this workshop include cytokines, parasites, macrophages, lymphocytes, immunosuppression and immunomodulation.

"Signal Transduction"

Chairperson: **Pauline Johnson** (University of British Columbia, Vancouver)

The aim of this workshop is to encourage informal discussion on the latest advances in Immunology in the area of signal transduction. This encompasses events occurring at :
1) the cell surface and triggering cellular changes and includes a variety of receptor/ligand interactions (cell adhesion molecule interactions, cytokine binding, antigen recognition and receptor activation) 2) inside the cell as a result of an extracellular stimuli (activation of enzymes including kinases and phosphatases, recruitment of molecules to the cell surface, phosphorylation events, translocation of proteins, protein-protein interactions) 3) in the nucleus as a result of this stimuli and which ultimately lead to a change in cellular function (translocation of proteins to nucleus, induction and regulation of transcription factors, changes in gene transcription)

All are encouraged to submit abstracts for posters in this broad area of immunobiology and from these a small number will be selected to make a short presentation, (5 min; 2 or 3 slides or overheads).

"Cellular and Molecular Events in Inflammation"

Chairpersons: **Eva Turley** (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg) and **Paul Naccache** (CHUL, Ste-Foy)

The role of integrins, selectins and hyaluronan receptors in inflammation will be discussed. Their efficacy for therapeutic intervention will also be considered. Novel data implicating extracellular matrix receptors as signalling molecules will be emphasized.

"Autoimmunity"

Chairpersons: **Michael Dosch** and **Jayne Danska** (HSC and University of Toronto)

This workshop aims to provide an informal platform for discussions of current progress and stumbling blocks in the understanding of autoimmunity, both human diseases and animal models. All are encouraged to submit poster abstracts. Some will be selected for brief (5 minutes, 3 slides) presentations that focus less on technicalities and detailed results than on conclusions and their interpretation with respect to several main topics:

- 1) What triggers and/or sustains autoimmunity, why and how?
- 2) What distinguishes potentially non-pathogenic autoimmunity from pathogenic autoimmune attack and what drives this progression?
- 3) How are genetic and acquired elements of autoimmunity interfaced?
- 4) What are the mechanisms of autoimmune effector functions?
- 5) Is there potential immunotherapy for autoimmune diseases?

Everyone is welcome to organize additional workshops by contacting Trevor Owens (Montreal) or Michelle Letarte (Toronto).

CSI MEMBERS INFORMATION/APPLICATION

1995-96

CURRENT MEMBERS are requested to include this form with their payment of dues. Mark the appropriate membership category.

Applications from NEW MEMBERS may be made on this form. Please indicate the category of membership requested. Include a single copy of your curriculum vitae and payment for the appropriate category with this form.

STUDENT \$22.84 _____ POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEE \$55.58 _____

FULL \$62.00 _____

NOTE IF YOU ARE A PAID MEMBER OF ANOTHER SOCIETY IN THE CFBS DEDUCT \$12.84, \$25.68, OR \$32.10 FROM STUDENT, POSTDOCTORAL OR FULL MEMBERSHIP DUES RESPECTIVELY AND INDICATE THE SOCIETY WHICH YOU BELONG TO.

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SEND TO: Dr. JOHN WILKINS
RDU RESEARCH LABORATORY
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WINNIPEG MB R3A 1M4

NAME: _____

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RESEARCH INTERESTS: (3 TOPICS) _____

SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE OF CONFORMATION OF STUDENT ENROLMENT IN AN
ACADEMIC PROGRAM: _____

TWO SIGNATURES OF SUPPORTING CSI MEMBERS (REQUIRED FOR NEW
APPLICATIONS ONLY): 1 2

NAME _____

SIGNATURE: _____