



## Report to the Australian Academy of Sciences

IX<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

[www.cpt2008.org](http://www.cpt2008.org)

(incorporating the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Therapeutics Congress of the Canadian Society for Clinical Pharmacology, the Canadian Association for Population Therapeutics and the Canadian College of Clinical Pharmacy).

July 27–August 1 2008, Québec City Convention Centre, Québec, Canada

### *Conference Overview.*

The overall objectives of the meeting were to highlight the latest drug-related therapeutic advances from the basic sciences dealing with cellular/molecular interactions to clinical practice in specific patient groups to population public health studies; the conference was designed to appeal to clinicians, scientists, pharmacists and other health professionals with expertise in clinical pharmacology and toxicology and related disciplines,. There were approximately 1700 registrants from 82 Countries with 31 Australian registrants. There were 60 trade exhibitors mainly comprising Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology Companies, Contract Research Organisations, Publishers and Scientific Instrument Manufacturers. Two Australians were members of the Scientific Programme Committee, Prof Don Birkett (Johnson & Johnson) and Prof Ric Day (St Vincent's Hospital, University of New South Wales). The conference comprised Plenary Lectures, Symposia under 4 Streams (New Therapeutic Approaches; From Fundamental to Clinical Pharmacology; Medicines and Society; Clinical Pharmacology in Special Populations) and a large number of posters in keeping with the major streams.

Invited Australian Symposia Speakers included:

- Sepehr Shakib (Royal Adelaide Hospital; *Development of a National E-learning Initiative in Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology for Undergraduate Medical Students*);
- Murray Esler (Baker Heart Research Institute: *Variation in Serotonin and Norepinephrine: Links Between Panic Attacks and Cardiac Risk*);
- Madlen Gazarian (University of NSW and Sydney Children's Hospital; *Evaluating Appropriateness of Off-Label Medicines Use: Implications for Policy, Practice and Research*);



- Basil Roufogalis (University of Sydney; *PPARs: Targets for Natural Products in Diabetes and Hyperlipidemia*);
- Rebecca Ritchie (Baker Heart Research Institute; *The Interaction Between the Endothelium and the Myocardium is a Controlling Mechanism of Abnormal Cardiac Growth*);

In addition, two New Zealand-based members of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) were also invited speakers:

- Nick Holford (University of Auckland; *Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic Model Development in Neonates and Children*)
- Ruth Savage (University of Otago; *Public Health: Implications of Research Utilizing Pharmacovigilance Databases*).

### ***General Assembly, IUPHAR (Clinical Division)***

The General Assembly of the Clinical Division of IUPHAR (The International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, of which ASCEPT is a participating society) was held on Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (12 noon to 2 pm), chaired by Prof Patrick du Souich. Following the unanimous acceptance of the agenda by all attendees, and the Treasurer's report for the Clinical Division of IUPHAR, reports from the various subcommittees were presented. Australians members of IUPHAR subcommittees at present include Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology (Madlen Gazarian), Clinical Pharmacology for Developing Countries (Tony Smith) and Pharmacogenetics (Andrew Somogyi).

A report on the collaboration between the Clinical Division of IUPHAR and the World Health Organisation (WHO) was then presented; this initiative was one of the outcomes of the previous World Conference on Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics, held in Brisbane in August 2004. One of the key activities of this collaboration included revision of the Core Curriculum in Clinical Pharmacology textbook, and it is noted that two Australians, Don Birkett and Tony Smith have been invited to contribute chapters. Another key activity focuses on Clinical Pharmacology for Rationale Drug Prescription in Egypt.

It should be noted that IUPHAR has its name rebadged to the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. In addition, rather than holding 2 separate conferences on basic (IUPHAR) and clinical pharmacology (CPT), a single conference comprising both basic and clinical pharmacology will be held every 4 years. As part of this new format, the new Clinical Division of IUPHAR Council



will be elected for six (rather than the usual four) years. The General Assembly approved the 2008–2014 council which resulted in the election of two Australians; Don Birkett remains on Council (from the 2004–2008 Council) as Vice Chair and David Le Couteur was elected as a new Councillor. All current chairs of the Clinical Division of IUPHAR subcommittees were elected to serve a second term, again for six years (2008–2014). The Clinical Division will be ongoing in the new format of IUPHAR, with potential activities, possibly regional in nature, envisioned between the quadrennial congresses of the combined International Union.

Chairs of the forthcoming IUPHAR congresses, World Pharma2010 (Copenhagen, Denmark) and XVIIth World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology 2014 (Cape Town, South Africa) gave short presentations. The 2010 congress is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010, with planning of the scientific programme well underway. The preliminary programme and call for abstracts will be released in August/September 2009. Of note, Australian-born Crown Princess Mary of Denmark has been named as the congress patron in 2010. The 2014 congress is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

The next General Assembly of the Clinical Division of IUPHAR will be held as part of the congress in Copenhagen in 2010.

Following the 2008 General Assembly, Andrew Somogyi and Rebecca Ritchie met with the President (Kim Brøsen) and Secretary General (Michael Mulvany) of WorldPharma2010, to update ASCEPT on the progress of the scientific programme and to discuss strategies by ASCEPT Council to encourage attendance by its members to the 2010 congress.

Prof Andrew Somogyi

Immediate Past President (ASCEPT)

Date Monday August 25, 2008

Dr Rebecca Ritchie

Hon Secretary (ASCEPT)