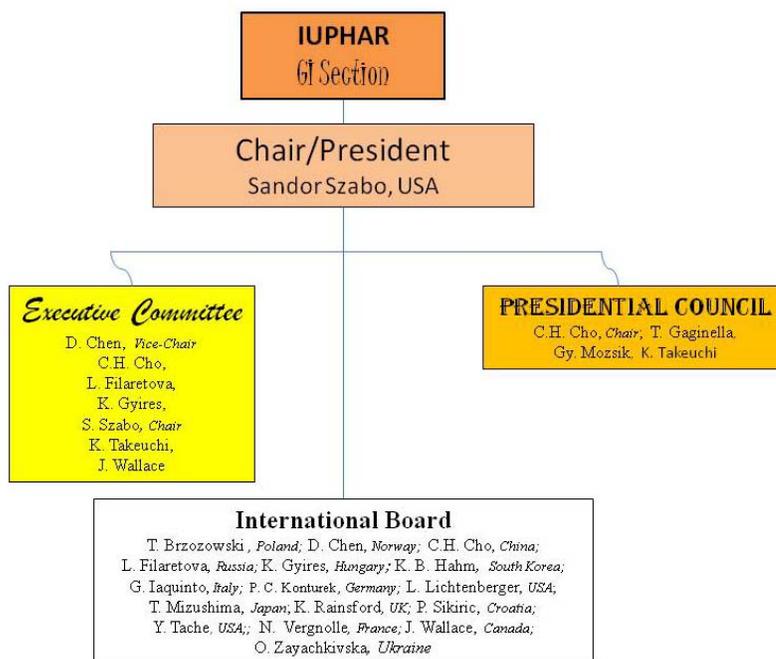


Activities of the GI Pharmacology Section 2012-2013

We are very pleased to report that all the 2012 planned activities of the Gastrointestinal (GI) Section have not only been completed, but expanded. This reflects the traditionally very active GI pharmacology community & our interest to collaborate & interact at the international level. We will focus our report on the events of 2012 & list some of the 2013-2015 plans.

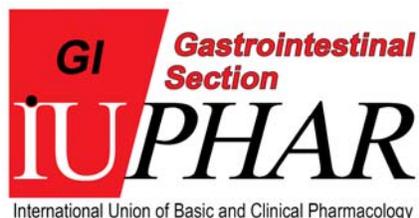
Organizational/administrative accomplishments:

- New logo & letterhead for the GI Section: Thanks to help of the IUPHAR Secretary-General Office at the University of Kansas, especially, Ms. Lynn LeCount, CMA, IUPHAR Administrative Officer, we were able to design a nice logo for our section (see top of page). We used this also for our new letterhead that was distributed to all the officers & national representatives of our section.
- New organizational structure & chart: We expanded our new *Executive Committee* with prominent, internationally known GI pharmacologists to now include Profs. D. Chen (Norway) as vice-chair, C.H. Cho (China), L. Filaretova (Russia), K. Gyires (Budapest), S. Szabo (USA) as chair, K. Takeuchi (Japan) & J. Wallace (Canada). Based on the examples of other successful scientific organizations, we have now established an advisory (not voting) *Presidential Council* that includes past presidents/chairs of the GI Section, i.e., C.H. Cho (China) as chair, T. Gaginella (USA), Gy. Mozsik (Hungary) & K. Takeuchi (Japan). We also created an *International Board* that include national representatives of the worldwide GI pharmacology community: T. Brzozowski (Poland), D. Chen (Norway), C.H. Cho (China), L. Filaretova (Russia), K. Gyires (Hungary), K.B. Hahm (South Korea), G. Iaquinto (Italy), P.C. Konturek (Germany), L. Lichtenberger (USA), T. Mizushima (Japan), K. Rainsford (UK), P. Sikiric (Croatia), Y. Tache (USA), N. Vergnolle (France), J. Wallace (Canada) & O. Zayachkivska (Ukraine).



November 7, 2012

- National chapters of GI Pharmacology: We always had national & regional meetings on GI pharmacology, but with the creation of new International Board, these activities were formalized with the establishment of national chapters. One of the largest & most active is the new "*GI Club*" that was established in 2012 at the



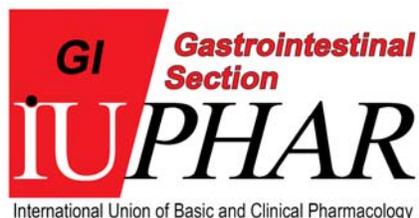
Activities of the GI Pharmacology Section 2012-2013

Experimental Biology/ASPET/FASEB annual meeting in San Diego, thanks to the receptive leadership of Molecular Pharmacology Section of ASPET, especially to then-president Dr. Randy Hall who actually suggested the name "GI Club" to emphasize the interdisciplinary character of molecular GI pharmacology (similar to the historically very active "Catecholamine Club"). Similar, active groups with annual meetings (e.g., on "cytoprotection") exist in Japan, China, Hungary & Russia.

- The worldwide GI pharmacology was very active in submitting via the GI Section proposals for the organization of symposia, workshops & special sessions at the World Congress of Pharmacology in 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. We submitted more than half a dozen topics, covering all aspects of the GI tract, e.g., from pharmacologic modulation of functional disorders & inflammatory, ulcerative lesions to the modern treatment of GI cancers. We hope that most of our proposals (well balanced between basic sciences & clinical pharmacology) will be accepted by the Organizing Committee & we are anxious to hear from them.

Specific events of 2012 & early 2013:

- May 2012, San Diego, CA, USA, AGA/DDW (Digestive Diseases Week) annual meeting: This is an official annual event of gastroenterologists, GI investigators & educators from the USA, but it is also attended by thousands of foreign participants (total about 15,000 every year), especially from EU countries (UK, Italy, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland), Japan & China. Last year again dozens of GI pharmacology topics have been scheduled for oral & poster presentations in the main AGA/DDW program. Unfortunately, most of the GI pharmacologists feel that the annual events of AGA/DDW are becoming more & more clinical... Actually, this was the consensus of our informal meetings & discussions with GI pharmacologists from about a dozen of countries represented in San Diego, reinforcing the need for expanded activities of IUPHAR GI Section.
- July 2012, Tokyo, Japan, IUPHAR International Symposium on GI Pharmacology: Prof. Takeuchi organized a 1-day meeting during the 14th ICUR (International Conference on Ulcer Research) that was running parallel with the annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Experimental Ulcers. In our GI Pharmacology Symposium about 60 young & established researchers participated, mostly from Japan, China, South Korea, Canada & USA.
- September 2012, Budapest, Hungary: This was the 50th annual meeting of the Hungarian Pharmacological Society, with a half-day program dedicated to GI pharmacology (organized by Prof. Gyires) with substantial international participation.
- September 2012, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 7th International Symposium on Cell/Organ Injury & Cytoprotection/Organoprotection: This is a long-running series of GI pharmacology symposia, focused mostly on the mechanisms of cell & tissue injury in the GI tract, with special emphasis on the pharmacologic prevention of acute erosive & ulcerative lesions, such as produced by alcohol & NSAID. This symposium was very well organized by the internationally known GI pharmacologist Prof. Takeuchi who was facing mandatory retirement in Japan in 2013. It was attended by 80 participants from 11 countries of the world, but mostly from Japan, China, Europe & North America.
- March 2013, Kyoto, Japan, Special IUPHAR GI Symposium: This was a 1-day weekend event honoring the mandatory retirement of Prof. Takeuchi, attended by about 160 participants, including about 30 of his students & 130 physicians, PhDs, research fellows, pharmacists & pharmaceutical industry representatives from Japan, & eight well known GI pharmacologists were also invited from Canada, Korea, Russia, Sweden & USA.



Activities of the GI Pharmacology Section 2012-2013

Plans of the GI Pharmacology Section for 2013 & beyond:

We have well defined goals for the remaining part of 2013 & some preliminary plans for 2014-15.

April 20-24, 2013, Boston, MA, USA, Experimental Biology/ASPET/FASEB annual meeting will include the first formal business & scientific meeting of the newly formed GI Club, the US national chapter of IUPHAR GI Section, with substantial international participation. The room assignments for this year EB/FASEB have been completed before the GI Club became active, hence our first formal meeting will be held in the Harvard Club of Boston (where as a member I could obtain rooms with reduced rates), on April 22, 2013, Monday 6-10 pm. Since the global membership of GI Club submitted about 30 abstracts, there will be dedicated GI pharmacology posters sessions at this EB/FASEB meeting.

May 18-21, 2013, Orlando, FL, USA, AGA/DDW (Digestive Diseases Week) annual meeting: As in previous years, this annual event of clinical & research-oriented gastroenterologists of the USA will also be attended by thousands of foreign participants. Although the IUPHAR GI Section & the new GI Club are not officially part of the program, there will be informal meetings of GI pharmacologists from North America, Europe & Asia, since traditionally dozens of GI pharmacology topics are scheduled for oral presentations in the main AGA/DDW program & hundreds of similar posters will be on display each day during the 4-day meeting.

July 13-18, 2014, Cape Town, South Africa, 17th World Congress of Basic & Clinical GI Pharmacology: As stated in our activity report (above), the IUPHAR GI Section submitted about half a dozen proposals for symposia, workshops & special sessions in basic & clinical pharmacology as well as in translational sciences, originating from GI pharmacology.

September 24-26, 2014, Budapest, Hungary, the 8th International Symposium on Cell/Tissue Injury & Cytoprotection/Organoprotection: to be organized by Prof. Klara Gyires, in the historic building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

October 1-4, 2015, Canada, the 15th ICUR (Int. Conf. on Ulcer Research), will be organized by Prof. John Wallace, most likely in Banff, Alberta or Montebello, Quebec. These conferences traditionally have strong component of pharmacology topics, in addition to other pathophysiologic & molecular/cellular biology subjects.

Most of these conferences & symposia will be supported by local & dedicated, specific fundraising activities that may include requests for contributions from the IUPHAR Executive Committee.

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