

Past and Future Activities of the IUPHAR Gastrointestinal (GI) Section

Over the past year the GI Section was proud to host a number of successful meetings, including one in May, 2013 that included Dr. Barry Marshall, a Nobel Laureate. We look forward to organizing the GI symposia for the WCP2014 meeting in Cape Town. Other, more specialized, regional symposia are also being planned for the future.

Business and Scientific Meetings during the Digestive Diseases Week

In May, 2013 the annual meetings of several American gastroenterology-related societies were held during the Digestive Diseases Weeks (DDW). The largest gathering of GI-related clinicians and basic scientists from all over the world, this meeting normally attracts more participants than GI world congresses. The IUPHAR GI Section meets regularly at these meetings, which are usually held in May. We are very proud that Dr. Barry Marshall, who shared the 2005 Nobel Prize for the discovery of *Helicobacter pylori*, the etiologic factor in the pathogenesis of 'peptic ulcer' disease, accepted our invitation to attend our meeting on May 19, 2013 in Orlando, Florida, USA. In addition to his presentation on "The



International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology

Business & Scientific Meeting, DDW, Orlando, FL

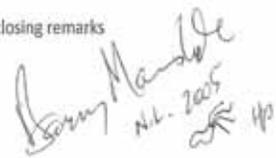
May 19, 2013, 7:00 pm

Embassy Suites Int'l Drive-Jamaican Ct., Panther Room

8250 Jamaican Court - Orlando, FL 32815, Phone: 407-345-8250 Fax: 407-352-1463

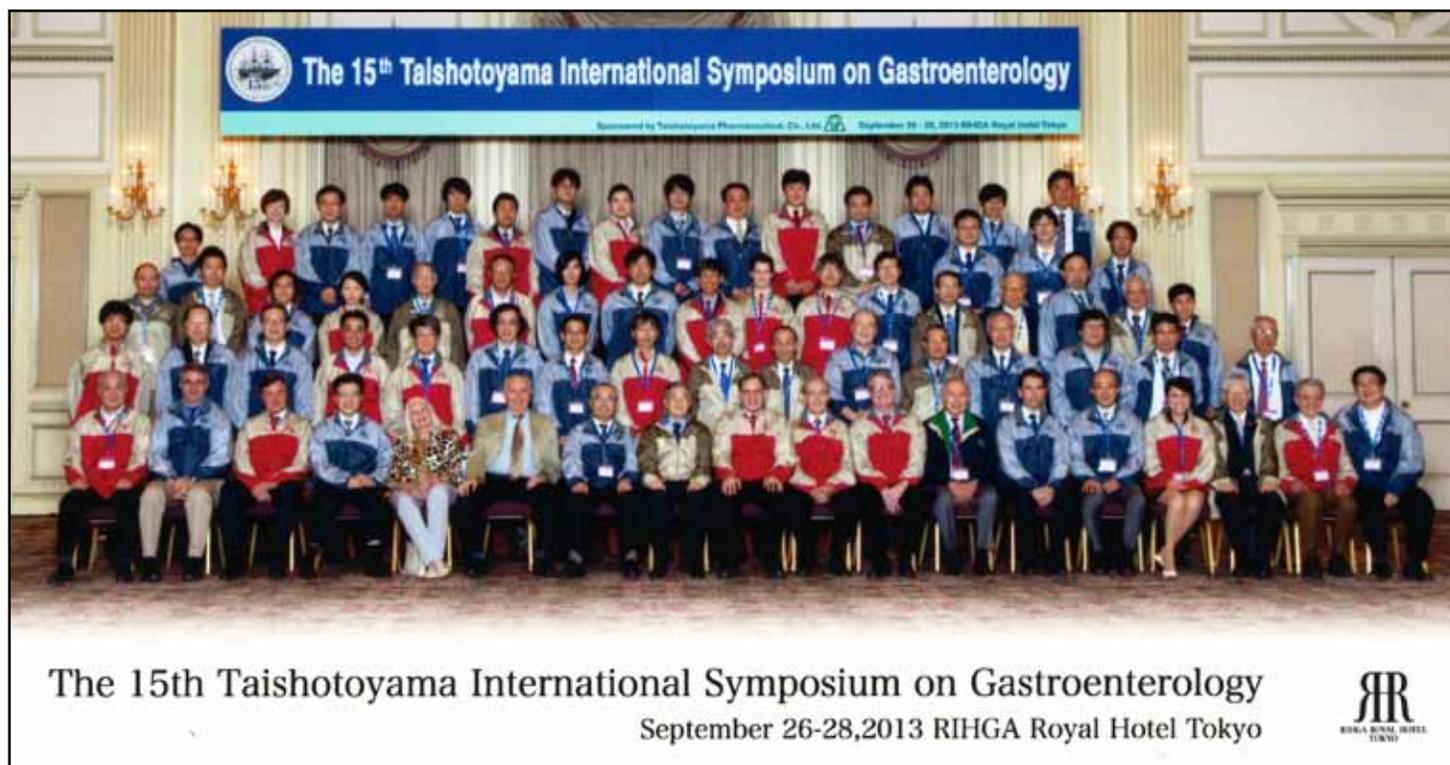
Chaired by Sandor Szabo (president) & Duan Chen (vice-president)

- Introduction & welcome
- Strictly business
 - Name change: GI Section vs. GI Pharmacology Section?
 - Review of operational principles & statutes
 - Plans for the World Congress of Pharmacology, Cape Town, South Africa, 2014
- Announcements
 - Publications in J. Physiol. Pharmacol. (T. Brozowski)
 - 8th Int. Symp. on Cell/Tissue Injury & Cytoprot./Organoprotection, Budapest, Hungary, 2014 (K. Gyires)
 - 15th ICUR, Ottawa, Canada, 2015 (J. Wallace)
- Scientific presentation: Dr. Barry Marshall, Nobel Laureate 2005 – "The bad & good face of H. pylori: An update from the Ondek research team"
- Discussion & closing remarks



Dr. Barry Marshall participated in the May, 2013 Digestive Diseases Week in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Past & Future Activities of the IUPHAR Gastrointestinal (GI) Section (continued)



bad and good face of *H. pylori*: An update from the Ondek research team". Dr. Marshall attended our business meeting dinner and actively participated in an extended discussion on various topics related to GI research, pharmacology, clinical activities, and the changing face of *H. pylori*.

15th Taishotoyama International Symposium on Gastroenterology, Tokyo, Japan: Last of a Series

These symposia are organized and sponsored by the Taishotoyama Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. which produces and markets drugs, such as sofalcone, for the treatment of GI disorders. The first of these symposia was held in 1987 in Shimoda, a historic sea-side village near Tokyo, then the subsequent meetings have been held in Tokyo. As the number of participants is strictly limited, it is noteworthy that several members of IUPHAR GI Section leadership were invited to participate in past meetings, and the one held this year (September 26-28). The Organizing Committee chairs of the last several symposia have been two prominent GI investigators and clinicians from Japan, Profs. Masaki Kitajima and Akira Terano, who are also members of IUPHAR GI Section. Furthermore, four of the five Special Lectures were presented by members of the Global GI Club. Unfortunately, this will be the last of these symposia, as the company is unable to continue sponsorship of this event. The proceedings of this symposium will be published in the *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.

Special IUPHAR GI Section Symposium: First in Zagreb, Croatia

This meeting was held at the Medical Faculty, University of Zagreb, Croatia (October 17-19, 2013). It was organized by Prof. Predrag Sikiric of the University of Zagreb Department of Pharmacology, and a member of the International Board of IUPHAR GI Section. The program consisted of invited lectures, short oral presentations that were selected from submitted abstracts, poster sessions and round-table discussions. Most of the participants were from European countries, although there was also representation from Japan, Korea, Canada and the USA. The proceedings of this symposium will be published in the *Journal of Physiological Pharmacology*.

Past & Future Activities of the IUPHAR Gastrointestinal (GI) Section (continued)

IUPHAR GI Section Symposia at WCP2014 in Cape Town, South Africa (see page 24) The GI Section is very proud that its symposia proposals were accepted by the WCP Program committee. The GI topics to be covered during the Cape Town meeting (July 13-18, 2014) are:

- Advances in GI pharmacology: New approaches to upper and lower GI ulcers and inflammation
- Aspirin, the wonder drug: Keeping a balance between its great therapeutic benefits and its GI toxicity
- Hydrogen sulfide in GI health and disease
- Manipulation of gut microbiome as a treatment strategy for gastrointestinal and metabolic disorders
- Neuroendocrine regulation of GI protection: Central and peripheral pathways

These presentations are designed to appeal not only to basic and clinical scientists actively engaged in GI research, but to anyone interested current treatments for GI disorders, including functional and structural diseases. In addition, there will be a discussion of the latest developments in defining the pathology of GI diseases and new targets for drug discovery. In addition, the GI Section will have its quadrennial business meeting on Sunday afternoon, July 13, just prior to the opening ceremony of the Congress.

8th International Symposium on Cell/Tissue Injury and Cytoprotection/ Organoprotection, September 24-26, 2014, Budapest, Hungary (see page 51)

This is the eighth in a series of international symposia, with the first one was held in Heidelberg, Germany in 1986. This gathering is now the official scientific meeting of IUPHAR GI Section. Unlike the terminated Taishotoyoma International Symposia on Gastroenterology that focused on broad scientific and clinical aspects of GI diseases, these meetings are more focused on particular issues of contemporary interest, such as the pharmacologic prevention of GI lesions (i.e., protection of GI tract), especially on gastroprotection. The value of these symposia is enhanced by parallel presentations and discussion on mechanisms of cell and tissue injury in the GI tract and other organs. This fosters a cross-fertilization of ideas that is enhanced by specialists and presentations in areas such as cardioprotection, neuroprotection and hepatoprotection. Such interactive presentations will highlight the 2014 meeting in Budapest. The symposium is being organized by Prof. Klara Gyires of the Department of Pharmacology, Semmelweis Medical University, who is also a member of the IUPHAR GI Section Executive Committee, and her colleagues. It will be held in the historic building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. •

Sandor Szabo
President, IUPHAR GI Section

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