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January 8, 2009

Dr S.J. Enna, Ph.D.
Secretary-General
International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology

A report on the activities and projected initiatives from May 2008 to February 2009 of the Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section

The current Executive Committee members of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) –Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section are: C.H. Cho (President), K. Takeuchi (Vice-president), D. Chen (Secretary), J.A. Rudd (Treasurer), P. Andrews (Councillor), T. Brozowski (Councillor), Gy. Mozsik (Councillor), K.D. Rainsford (Councillor), S. Szabo (Councillor), Y. Taché (Councillor) and J.L. Wallace (Councillor).

I am reporting the activities of the Section as well as activities related to gastrointestinal pharmacology conducted by the council members during the said period.

2008 activities and projected initiatives for 2009 by the Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section of IUPHAR

2008

May: The IUPHAR-GI Pharmacology Section together with the Zhong Shan Hospital, Fu Dan University, Shanghai, China had co-hosted a meeting entitled “The Zhongshan-International Conference- Drug Treatment in Liver Diseases”, in Shanghai, China, from May 9-11, 2008. There were over 30 invited speeches by speakers from the region, Europe and USA.

August: Our application for the proposal entitled “Building Europe-China Collaborative Network – Applying Systems Biology in Traditional Chinese Medicine” to the 7th Framework Programme of European Commission was unsuccessful although the proposal had passed all evaluation thresholds.

September: “The International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Inflammation and Cancer: From Etiology to Therapy” was held in Beijing, China from September 26-28, 2008. This is the first international meeting in

September (continued) Beijing immediately after the Olympic Games. This symposium was co-organized by: (1) the Beijing Digestive Diseases Center, Beijing Friendship Hospital, Capital Medical University, (2) IUPHAR-GI Pharmacology Section, and (3) the Chinese Association of Gastroenterologists & Hepatologists. There were over 15 invited speakers from 10 different countries and regions including China, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Norway, Taiwan and USA. The symposium was also sponsored by IUPHAR to support those young investigators attending the meeting.

December: We had made the proposal to the organizing committee of the Congress of IUPHAR 2010. The proposal entitled "Challenges in Modern Gastrointestinal Pharmacology: from Functional Disorders to Neoplastic Diseases" was accepted to be included in one of the focused conferences in the main programme in Copenhagen, Denmark IUPHAR2010.

2009

January: A meeting entitled "Assessment of emetic liability of novel chemical entities" is currently proposed in late 2009 to be held in Hong Kong, China.

The GI Section of IUPHAR is one of the societies sponsoring the 13th International Conference on Ulcer Research (Gastrointestinal Research) to be held in Split, Croatia from September 10-16, 2009.

Other activities performed by the executive committee members of the Gastrointestinal Section of IUPHAR during the reporting period:

2008

May: Prof. Sandor Szabo together with Prof. Andy Tarnawski organized a meeting entitled "3rd International Symposium on Ulcer Healing: Focus on Angiogenesis, Stem Cells & IBD", from May 21-22, 2008, in San Diego, CA, USA dealing with the molecular, experimental & clinical GI pharmacology.

November: Prof. C.H. Cho had jointly organized a symposium entitled "The 2nd Taiwan-Hong Kong (CU)-Singapore Meeting of Pharmacologists" together with Prof. Samuel Chan from Taiwan and Prof. Peter Wong from Singapore held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan from November 22-23, 2008. Similar meeting will be held in Hong Kong in June 2009.

Prof. K. Takeuchi organized the 3rd collaboration meeting on GI pharmacology between Kyoto Pharmaceutical University and Yonsei University, Korea in Kyoto on 28th November 2008.

Overall the activities on gastrointestinal pharmacology have been active although we strive very hard to meet our goals. In the year 2008, we found difficulties to secure enough fundings to fulfil our initiatives and will be so in 2009. This is partly due to the change of policy of some of the international pharmaceutical companies in sponsoring scientific meetings and other academic activities. The other big reason is the bad global economy. This ends my chairman's report for the Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section. Thank you for your kind attention.

Best regards

Chi Hin Cho, B.Pharm., Ph.D.
President
Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section
IUPHAR