

Working report 2014

WCP2014. The Section of Pharmacogenetics and Pharmacogenomics (PGx Section), together with the Section on Drug Metabolism and Transport, was heavily involved in the preparation of symposia held at WCP2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. In particular the sessions on “Epigenetic regulation of drug metabolizing enzymes and transporters” and “Understanding drug induced liver injury: CYP450 and the immune system” comprised contributions of the Sections’ members and other highly distinguished speakers.

The first session was chaired by Prof. Ingolf Cascorbi (Kiel, Germany) and Prof. Magnus Ingelman-Sundberg (Stockholm, Sweden). Prof. Ingelman-Sundberg gave an excellent presentation on "DNA methylation in the regulation of drug metabolism and transport". Prof. Cascorbi outlined the "Role of microRNAs in the regulation of drug metabolism and disposition" and Prof. Matthias Schwab (Stuttgart, Germany) gave a highly interesting talk on "Epigenetic modulation of transporters as cancer risk factor". The session was well attended and found to be a major highlight of the congress.

The second session was chaired by Prof. Allan Rettie, (Seattle, WA, USA). An excellent introduction was given by Prof. James H. Lewis (Washington DC, USA) followed by presentations by Prof. Jack Uetrecht (Toronto, ON, Canada) and the PGx section member, Prof. Ann Daly (Newcastle, UK), on "Characterization of mechanisms of drug-induced immune mediated liver injury".

A special symposium of the PGx Section was organized to highlight “Global PGx-based Personalized Medicine”. The aim of this symposium was to discuss the current implementation, obstacles and ways to come forward. It was widely acknowledged that implementation of PGx in clinical practice differs globally and is dependent on knowledge and education, access to technical platforms, insurance policies, different ethical views and regulatory issues. Moreover, the use of molecular biomarkers for personalized medicine raises ethical and social concerns requiring a social consensus and careful legislative guidance. The PGx Section members, Profs. Ingolf Cascorbi, Steven Leeder, Collen Masimirembwa, Andrew Somogyi and Adrian Llerena, contributed talks on the views from Europe, USA, Africa, Australia and Latin America, respectively. Finally, Prof. Vural Özdemir discussed aspects of “Bioethics of PGx”. The symposium launched a very lively discussion.

In the PGx business meeting, Prof. Guilherme Suarez-Kurtz (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), who could not be present in person, was unanimously elected as the new section chair. There was also a motion to nominate a vice-chair and Prof. Andrew Somogyi (Adelaide, Australia) was unanimously elected to this new position.

Following their appointment as Chair and Vice-Chair of the PGx Section, Profs. Suarez-Kurtz and Somogyi proposed a revision to the Section’s membership with the purpose of increasing the worldwide representation of IUPHAR society members. Based on nominations by the current members, the distinguished colleagues, Collet Dandara (Cape Town, South Africa), Michal Lee (Yokohama, Japan), Collen

Masimirembwa (Harare, Zimbabwe), Jae Gook Shin (Busan, South Korea) and Nathalie K. Zgheib (Beirut, Lebanon) were invited and accepted to join the PGx Section as members.

In December 2014, the PGx Section signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The Golden Helix Foundation, an international non-profit organization, engaged in research and educational activities in Pharmacogenomics and Genomic Medicine. The terms of the agreement were designed to foster cooperation to advance basic and clinical research in pharmacogenomics, its clinical translation, plus educational and learning activities.



Ingolf Cascorbi, MD, PhD
Past Section Chair



Guilherme Suarez-Kurtz, MD, PhD
Section Chair

Current Members of the PGx Section

Guilherme Suarez-Kurtz, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
(Chair)
Andrew Somogyi, Adelaide, Australia (Vice-
Chair)
Ingolf Cascorbi, Kiel, Germany (Past Chair)
Kim Brøsen, Odense, Denmark
Ann Daly, Newcastle upon Tyne, United
Kingdom
Cottett Dandara, Cape Town, South Africa
Magnus Ingelman-Sundberg, Stockholm,
Sweden

Deanna Kroetz, San Francisco, CA, USA
Michael Lee, Yokohama, Japan
J. Steven Leeder, Kansas City, MO, USA
Adrián Llerena, Badajoz, Spain
Collen Masimirembwa, Harare, Zimbabwe
Vural Özdemir, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Munir Pirmohamed, Liverpool, United Kingdom
Matthias Schwab, Stuttgart, Germany
Ron van Schaik, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Jae Gook Shin, Busan, South Korea
Nathalie K. Zgheib (Beirut, Lebanon)