

**Report on the XIV International Symposium on Cholinergic Mechanisms**  
**(Hangzhou, China, May 5-9, 2013)**

The XIV<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Cholinergic Mechanisms was held in Hangzhou (China) with a specific goal to create a forum in which diverse areas of cholinergic mechanisms in a broad spectrum of study models can be openly and critically discussed. The meeting gathered more than 180 participants from 22 countries including 40 from China. ISN provided grants for 13 young scientists and post-doctoral fellows.

The meeting was organized jointly by Prof. Karl W.K. Tsim (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) and by Prof. Yong-Sheng Fan (Zhejiang Chinese Medical University) with the help of their colleagues and an International Advisory Committee. It was sponsored by Chinese universities, and companies, as well as foreign and international research Institutions (ISN, IUBMB). The meeting was excellently organized in Hangzhou, the capital city of Zhejiang province located near Shanghai. With enchanting natural beauty and abundant cultural heritages, Hangzhou is known as ‘Heaven on Earth’ and one of China’s most important tourist venues.

The ISCMs are considered today as the official representations of the cholinergic field. There were about 82 speakers and as in previous meetings, there were no parallel sessions so that the participants could attend all the lectures. This is important because the field of cholinergic mechanism is widely multidisciplinary. During the meeting, there were thirteen sessions covering the enormous advances in different areas in the field of cholinergic mechanism, including receptology and their flexibility, cholinesterases, clinical aspects of cholinergicity and cholinergically related behaviors etc. There were also three plenary lectures: “In shadows of the neuromuscular junction” given by Prof. Uel Jackson McMahan; “Inside-out mechanisms of chronic exposure to nicotine” given by Prof. Henry Lester and “CholinomiRs: MicroRNA regulators of cholinergic signaling in the neuro-immune interface” given by Prof. Hermona Soreq. Nevertheless, a very important matter, which was initiated by Prof. Alexander Karczmar, “the cholinergic correlates of emotions”, was included for the very first time as one of the sessions, namely “Cholinergic correlates of behaviors, emotions and the “self””. Apart from the science, a special session was held to pay tribute to Prof. Jean

Massoulié and Prof. Elsa Reiner, which was chaired by Prof. Israel Silman, Prof. Karl Tsim and Prof. Palmer Taylor, respectively.

Further progress is expected in the studies of emotions, quantal aspect of cholinergic, and many entirely new cholinergic themes are opening, including the use of MRI imaging in subtle localizing of cholinergic elements and cholinergic metabolism. The fifteenth meeting of the series will undoubtedly raise the same passionate interests and bring fresh questions and approaches.