

**Final Report of the 12th International Conference on Brain Energy Metabolism
(ICBEM): *“Energy Metabolism and Neuron-Glia Interactions in Brain: from
Molecular Mechanisms to Novel Therapeutic Approaches”***

Background Details:

Location: Hong Kong, China

Date: May 25-28, 2016

Venue: Charles K. Kao Auditorium, Hong Kong Science Park, Shatin, Hong Kong

Conference Website: <http://www.hkbio.org.hk/icbem/>

Organizer: Hong Kong Biotechnology Organization

Conference Aims:

Brain energy metabolism is a neurochemistry subject area that deals with cellular mechanisms of the brain. Brain research associated with its high energy requirement compared to other organs is a prerequisite to understanding how a large number of neurological disorders are associated with aberrations in energy metabolism. For this conference, we have invited a number of internationally well-known speakers whose work involves cellular aspects on brain energy metabolism. The proposed conference program will bring together in a highly interactive forum, a group of researchers in neurochemistry who would normally not have the possibility of interaction. Such interaction is needed to facilitate progress in this field of research and there are no other meetings of this nature which can facilitate this kind of interaction. The ICBEM meeting in Hong Kong will provide an excellent venue for above mentioned cross-disciplinary interactions among neuroscientists and scientists of related fields. All investigators and students attending the conference will greatly benefit from interactions with researchers in the field of energy metabolism that underlie and contribute to brain diseases.

Structure of conference organizer

Scientific committee and local organizing committee are formed to oversee the overall planning and execution of this scientific conference; HKBIO-ICBEM Secretariat is responsible for all administrative work regarding conference registration, conference promotion, on-site arrangements and financial-related documentation.

Conference President

Albert C.H. YU (Beijing/Hong Kong)

Programme Committee

Chairman: Arne SCHOUSBOE (Denmark)

Members: Felipe BARROS (Chile), Kevin BEHAR (United States), Gerald DIENEL (United States), Joao DUARTE (Switzerland), Johannes HIRRLINGER (Germany), Mary C. McKENNA (United States), Bruce RANSOM (United States), Caroline RAE (Australia), Michael ROBINSON (United States), Bill SHUTTLEWORTH (United States), Alexei VERKRATSKY (United Kingdom), Helle WAAGEPETERSEN (Denmark), Albert C.H. YU (China)

Local Organizing Committee

Chairman: Ken K.L. YUNG (Hong Kong)

Members: Xiao-Qian CHEN (Wuhan), Lung-Sen KAO (Taipei), Eminy H.Y. LEE (Taipei), Qiang LI (Shanghai), Ying LI (Hong Kong), Hiroshi NAKANISHI (Fukuoka), Kwok-Fai SO (Hong Kong), Albert C.H. YU (Beijing/Hong Kong), Wing-Ho YUNG (Hong Kong)

Scientific Program:

The final program included a pre-conference lecture, 2 keynote lectures and 9 symposia with the participation of a total of 29 invited speakers. In addition, there was “Student Blitz” session with oral communications with 10 oral presenters and three poster sessions with 50 poster exhibitors. Detailed program rundown and abstracts are shown in the attached conference proceeding

Invited Speakers:

Pre-conference Lecture: Arne Schousboe, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)

Keynote Lecturers:

1. Ursula Sonnewald, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway)
2. Vladimir Parpura, University of Alabama Birmingham (United States)

Invited Speakers in Nine Scientific Sessions:

1. Martin Lauritzen, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
2. Andrea Volterra, University of Lausanne (Switzerland)
3. Brian MacVicar, University of British Columbia (Canada)
4. Bruce Ransom, University of Washington (United States)
5. Lasse K Bak, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
6. Felipe Barros, Centro de Estudios Científicos (Chile)
7. Bruno Weber, University of Zurich (Switzerland)
8. Sergey Kasparov, University of Bristol (United Kingdom)
9. Sookja K. Chung, The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
10. Gary E Gibson, Cornell College (United States)
11. Susanna Scafidi, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (United States)
12. Elizabeth A Jonas, Yale University (United States)
13. Joshua Jackson, University of Pennsylvania (United States)
14. Albert Cheung Hoi Yu, Peking University (China)
15. Amin Derouiche, University of Frankfurt (Germany)
16. Alexei Verkhatsky, The University of Manchester (United Kingdom)
17. Dmitri Rusakov, University College London (United Kingdom)
18. Stéphane Olié, Neurocentre Magendie (France)
19. Christine R. Rose, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (Germany)
20. Robert Zorec, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
21. Helle S. Waagepetersen, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
22. Jian-Zhi Wang, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (China)
23. Pierre-Gilles Henry, University of Minnesota (United States)
24. Fanny Mochel, La Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital (France)
25. Karin Borges, University of Queensland (Australia)
26. Susan Aja, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (United States)
27. Selva Baltan, Cleveland Clinic (United States)
28. Tailoi Chan-Ling, The University of Sydney (Australia)
29. Yuguo Yu, Fudan University (China)

Social Programs:

The conference was kicked off with an amazing lion dance performance during the opening reception. There were also tours to famous attractions and a hiking program arranged for the conference participants to explore both the city centre and natural side

of Hong Kong. A gala dinner was held at a traditional Cantonese Restaurant - *Lin Heung Kui*, a 'Bib Gourmand' ranking on Michelin Guide restaurant with over 100 years of history. Travel awards, outstanding oral presentation awards and outstanding presentation awards were entitled to all recipients at the restaurant. Participants expressed their positive feedbacks regarding the social programs for opportunities to connect with others in informal occasions under the relaxing atmosphere created through various social programs.

Participants:

There were around 250 registrants from 20 different countries and regions. Most registrants came from United States, Denmark, Hong Kong and Mainland China with the remaining participants came from Australia, Canada, Chile, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nigeria, Russia, Slovenia, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan and United Kingdom.

Use of ISN Fund:

Total funding amounted to US\$ 15,000 was granted to Hong Kong Biotechnology Organization. Of the US\$12,250, 15 selected students and young scientists from various countries were entitled for scholarship to attend the conference. The remaining US\$2,750 was used to support 5 more students from Mainland China to cover their registration fees and expenses during their stay.

List of scholarship recipients:

	First Name	Last Name	Country
1	Benjamin	Rowlands	Australia
2	Louis-Philippe	Bernier	Canada
3	Pedro	Cisternas	Chile
4	Xia	Jiang	China
5	Caixia	Peng	China
6	Blanca	Aldana García	Denmark
7	Michaela	Hohnholt	Denmark
8	Eva-Maria	Blumrich	Germany
9	Andrea	Trevisiol	Germany
10	Ulrike	Winkler	Germany
11	Anton	Malkov	Russia
12	Amandine	Grimm	Switzerland
13	Sarah	Sonnay	Switzerland
14	Courtney	Sobieski	United States
15	Marc	Zünd	Zurich

List of Chinese students who received subsidy:

	First Name	Last Name
1	Guo	Ge
2	Lina	Li
3	Jiang Shan	Zhan
4	Feng	Jiang
5	Ruichao	Chai

Live Webcast:

Part of the scientific sessions are broadcasted online for scientists and interested parties who cannot physically attend the conference to watch the presentations online at link: hkbio.9d.com.hk

Overall feedback:

Conference attendees have generally commented the conference was thought-provoking, stimulating, exciting and discussions evoked and explored new research directions.

Photos:

Below are some photos highlighting the both the scientific and social parts of the conference. More photos are available on <http://www.hkbio.org.hk/icbem/photo.html>.



Conference Venue Charles K. Kao Auditorium



Conference registration



Participants surprised and excited to experience the Chinese Cultural performance in a scientific conference



Eye-dotting tradition in lion dance performance



Speech by Conference President
Professor Albert Cheung Hoi Yu from Hong Kong



Pre-conference lecture given by
Professor Arne Schousboe from Denmark



Keynote Lecturer

Professor Ursula Sonnewald from Norway



Keynote Lecturer

Vladimir Parpura from United States



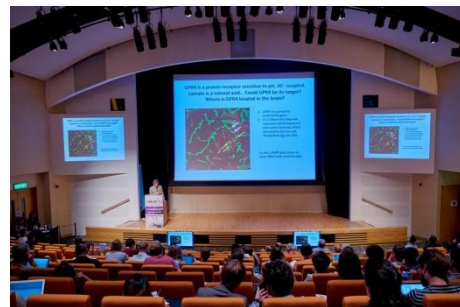
Lecture Hall



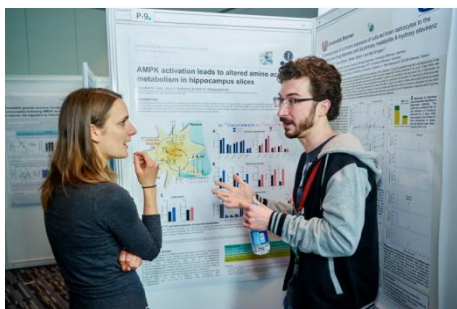
Attendees actively participated in discussions



Videography and live webcast service available



Front view of the stage



Poster Presentation fosters exchange of scientific ideas



Oral Presenters with session chair and conference president



Lunch break



Gala Dinner at a traditional Cantonese restaurant



Participants toasting with each other



Some travel award recipients joined the dinner and received their certificates



Tour to the peak having city and harbor view of Hong Kong



Tour to city centre after full-day scientific program



Participants taking a relaxing stroll in Repulse Bay Beach



Hiking in the rain - a definitely unusual experience