

Report of the International Society for Neurochemistry Sponsored Symposium “**Molecular Stroke Research – Recent Advances of Mechanisms of Brain Damage and Therapies**” at the combined meeting “International Symposium on Translational Neuroscience & XXXII Annual Conference of the Indian Academy of Neurosciences” held at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru (Bangalore), India from Nov 1 to 3.

The ISN Symposium was held on the morning of November 1 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Dr. Raghu Vemuganti (University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA) and Dr. Neeta Kanekar (Univ. of Illinois, Chicago, IL, USA) co-chaired the session. Approximately 80 scientists/post-docs/graduate students from various countries attended the session. There were 5 talks at the ISN Symposium. Dr. Jun Chen from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA gave the first talk entitled “Interplay of inflammation and oxidative DNA damage in cerebral ischemia”. Dr. Johannes Boltze from Fraunhofer Institute of Cell Therapy & Immunology, Leipzig, Germany gave the second talk entitled “Mononuclear bone marrow cell transplantation and post-stroke recovery”. Dr. Farida Sohrabji from the Texas A&M University College of Medicine, Bryan, TX, USA gave the third talk entitled “Age and Sex-specific regulation of microRNA: a strategy for stroke therapy”. Dr. Kunjan Dave from the University of Miami Medical School, Miami, FL, USA gave the fourth talk of the session entitled “Diabetes mediates molecular changes after stroke and therapeutic implications”. Dr. Raghu Vemuganti from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI, USA gave the last talk of the symposium entitled “Role of noncoding RNAs in post-stroke secondary brain damage”. Following the talks, there was a lively discussion with many questions coming from the post-docs and graduate students. Some examples of the questions are as follows. A student asked Dr. Sohrabji to explain the role of hormone replacement therapy as a function of age and its beneficial and detrimental efforts. A scientist asked Dr. Vemuganti to clarify the role of transcriptional factors in regulating the long noncoding RNAs in post-stroke brain. A student asked Dr. Dave if inflammation and/or oxidative stress play a role in the exacerbated post-stroke brain damage in diabetic patients. Dr. Boltze faced a question from a scientist on the suitability and pros/cons of developing a large animal model of stroke in sheep and its suitability for studying stem cell transplantation strategy as a therapeutic. Dr. Chen answered a question from a student on the role of anti-inflammatory drugs in controlling post-stroke brain damage. Overall, the ISN symposium was a great success and the discussion from the attendees continued over the lunch and as well as during the banquet on the night of 1st November. As the organizer of this, I felt that it was very useful and stimulatory for the students in India to hear the research conducted by scientists in USA and Germany and to interact with them in an excellent scientific environment.

Financial Report for \$4,000

Farida Sohrabji (\$800): Spent towards her flight ticket

Kunjan Dave (\$800): Spent towards his flight ticket

Johannes Boltze (\$800): Spent towards his flight ticket

Jun Chen (\$300): Spent towards his meeting registration

Raghu Vemuganti (\$1,300): Spent towards his flight ticket and hotel accommodation