

Post-Conference Report

The 2016 Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on Membrane Transport Proteins, entitled “Translating Molecules to Medicine” was successfully held on June 12-17 in Il Ciocco, Italy. The goal of the conference was to link molecular and mechanistic insights on clinically important membrane transporters- including solute carriers, ion channels and pumps, to human disease. This was the 10th anniversary of the conference, held every 2 years alternating in location between Europe and US.

Attendance: We are pleased to report that this conference was oversubscribed and there was a waiting list of applicants. In response to demand, we increased the size to **145 participants**. Conference attendees represent **>20 nations**, including Egypt, Israel, Chile, Japan, China, and Singapore, in addition to the European Union, US and Canada. Attendees were drawn from industry (Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Sanofi, Bayer, etc.), publishing (Nature), government (NIH), research institutes (INSERM, PNDRI) and academia (Tsinghua, Harvard, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Oxford, etc.). Researchers represented all career levels, including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty and directors/chairs.

Program: The final program is available online at <http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=12736>. The conference had a strong translational focus and included talks by leaders from academia, government, physician-scientists and the pharmaceutical industry. Young investigators, including graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, gave short talks that were selected from the abstracts. *Of the speakers and discussion leaders, 3 belonged to underrepresented minorities and 40% were women.* The GRC has recognized our keynote speaker, Prof. Nieng Yan (Tsinghua Univ.), with the prestigious **Alexander M. Cruickshank award** given to only 4 of >200 conferences. There were 85 **posters** that were displayed throughout the conference, with daily poster sessions held between 4:30-6 pm. Of these, 50 posters were presented by young investigators and eligible for 5 poster prizes (determined by a panel of 13 poster judges). Innovative aspects of the program included a pre-conference meeting (June 11-12) for young investigators, **Gordon Research Seminar** that included a mentorship component and opportunities to network, and a **Power Hour** (June 13) dedicated to issues relating to women in science. Both were well-attended and stimulated interesting discussions and highly positive feedback from attendees.

The **ISN sponsored session on Neurochemistry and Neurotransmitter Transporters** was held on June 16 (9-12:30 pm). There were four talks (30 min) by senior scientists, interspersed with four short (15 min) talks by junior investigators. The focus of the session was to report on cutting edge research in neurological disorders, psychostimulants and antidepressants. There were breakthrough reports on crystal structures of human neurotransmitter transporters (Jonathan Coleman, from the lab of Prof. Eric Gouaux at OHSU, USA; Nico Reyes, Pasteur Inst.). New insights on inhibitors of neurotransmitter transporters (Thomas Stockner, Med. Univ. Vienna) and new models for Parkinson disease (Thomas Steinkellner, UCSD) were presented. Prof. Ulrik Gether reported on the use of cutting edge STORM imaging to track the movements of the dopamine transporter. Prof. Manju Kurian gave us an update on the scope of dopamine disorders and prospects of treatment using iPSC cells and gene therapy. Prof. Gaia Novarino (IST, Austria) and Aurelio Galli (Vanderbilt Univ. USA) described their research on autism spectrum disorders. The discussion leader, Prof. Harald Sitte (Conference Vice Chair), fielded questions and comments from the floor for a lively and stimulating session.

Conference Evaluation: All attendees filled out an evaluation form to rate aspects of the scientific talks, conference site and overall quality. The results will be analyzed by GRC and made available to us at a later date. Many new collaborations were forged and collegial networks were established. We have been overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response and positive feedback from attendees on the conference. Some examples are included below.

Alice Verchère (graduate student, Menon Lab, Weill Cornell Medicine, NY) *"...above all thank you for this amazing GRC!"*

Anu Nagaraj (postdoctoral fellow, Forrest Lab, NINDS/NIH, USA) *"It was a fantastic conference! I had such a wonderful time meeting fascinating women as well and feel so motivated to do my best! Thank you so much for an inspiring meeting!"*

Michael Freissmuth (Chair of Pharmacology, Medical Univ. Vienna) *"Many thanks for this wonderful conference, which I thoroughly enjoyed, because it was very educational for me".*

Giulio Superti-Furga (Scientific Director, CeMM, Vienna) *"I wanted to express my gratitude for organizing such a great transporter meeting. All aspects covered. Great talks. Great posters. I really enjoyed."*

Acknowledgements: We gratefully thank the ISN for sponsoring a highly successful session within the prestigious Gordon Research Conference. ISN funds were used to defray in part, the registration fees and travel expenses for invited speakers and speakers selected from the abstracts. Sponsorship was acknowledged on the conference website, conference program distributed to all attendees and verbally by the Conference Chair (Rao) and Vice-Chair (Sitte) at the start of the conference and session.

2016 Membrane Transport Proteins GRC
 Chair: Rajini Rao, Ph.D. Vice Chair: Harald Sitte, M.D.

Allocation Summary - Generated 7/7/2016 7:02:05 AM				
Conference: 2016 Membrane Transport Proteins				
Name	Affiliation	Registration Allocation	Travel Allocation	Total Allocation

Coleman, Jonathan	Oregon Health and Science University	\$1,250.00		\$1,250.00
Galli, Aurelio	Vanderbilt University	\$1,515.00	\$800.00	\$2,315.00
Gether, Ulrik	University of Copenhagen	\$1,515.00		\$1,515.00
Kurian, Manju	School of Life and Medical Sciences, University College London	\$1,515.00	\$300	\$1,815.00
Lee, Jyh-Yeuan (Eric)	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	\$1,250.00		\$1,250.00
Novarino, Gaia	IST Austria	\$1,515.00		\$1,515.00
Reyes, Nico	Pasteur Institute, France	\$1,250.00		\$1,250.00
Sitte, Harald	Medical University of Vienna	\$1,515.00	\$300.00	\$1,815.00
Steinkellner, Thomas	University of California, San Diego	\$800.00		\$800.00
Stockner, Thomas	Medical University of Vienna	\$1,515.00		\$1,515.00

Total Allocation	\$15,040
ISN Contribution	\$6,000
GRC Conference Funds	\$9,040

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ISN fund disbursements

A. Galli	\$1,515
M. Kurian	\$1,515
G. Novarino	\$1,515
J. Coleman	\$1,250
H. Sitte	\$205