

I- International Spring Course: *Measuring secretion*

La Frontera, El Hierro, Canary Islands, Spain

May 13-17, 2012

www.hierrospringcourse.com

To.
Prof. Mike Cousin,
Chair of Neuronal Cell Biology,
Membrane Biology Group,
Centre for Integrative Physiology,
George Square,
University of Edinburgh,
Edinburgh, EH8 9XD
UK.

June 6, 2012

Dear Prof Cousin,

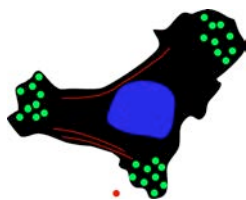
Please find below the list of attendants to the course as well as the professors who carried out the talks and the "hands on" workshops.

Also, find attached is a brief report of the course.

Once again, I would like to express you our gratitude for your personal efforts in getting these funds, which have largely contributed to the great success of the course.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Borges, MD, PhD
Professor of Pharmacology



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Attendant students

Aina Masgrau Fortuni

Carmen D. Jiménez Espinoza

Carmen Pérez de Nanclares Fernández

Daniel Pereda de Pablo

Elisa Durán Zurita

Enrique Calvo Gallardo

Fanny Momboisse

Francisco José Taberner Sanchis

Isabel Devesa Giner

J. Fernando Padín Noguiera

José Carlos Fernández Morales

José G. Hernández Jiménez

Josué Campos Ávila

Juan Alberto Arranz Tagarro

Judith Estévez Herrera

Laura Torres Benito

Luis A. Olivós-Oré

M^a Ángeles Montes Fernández

M^a Carmen Fernández-Agüera

Marcos Maroto Pérez

Marta Rodríguez Pardo

Mercé Izquierdo Serra

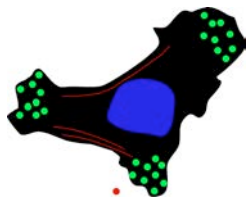
Natalia Domínguez Reyes

Patricia González Rodríguez

Paula García Huerta

Sara Teller Amado

Organizers: Ricardo Borges, rborges@ull.es, +34.922.319346
Guillermo Álvarez de Toledo, gat@us.es, +34. 95.4559856



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Final report.

The place.

The Canary Island of El Hierro was chosen because its isolation, its impressive countryside and because the good prices for accommodation offered. In addition, the island has suffered a volcanic crisis that has devastated their local economy traditionally based in fishing and tourism.

The "Pozo de la Salud" is a hotel-balneario that had a nice dining room big enough to be used for the sessions. Its limited number of accommodation rooms obliged us to also use a couple of apartments placed just 100 m from the El Pozo premises. All the meals were made in El Pozo.

The course.

All the students received several papers for improving their background prior the course. Also they had access to all the programs and platforms required for the "hands-on".

For these workshops we used free- or demonstration software, which was downloaded either directly from factory's web-pages or from a Drop-box archive created for the event. As it is described in the accompanied programme, mornings were mostly employed for the talks whereas the "hands-on" took place during the afternoons.

The programme offered an extensive overview about the methodologies currently followed for the study of the neurosecretory process. We found of especial interest the practical sessions where attendants had to solve problems of analyzing electronmicroscopy and fluorescence images, electrophysiological and electrochemical recordings, designing of molecular biology tools and scientific equipment as well as knowing about fractionating methods for organelle purification.

Although all of the professors attended to all the sessions it was surprising that students raised most of the questions and commentaries during sessions.

The social programme.

Although the course left free time we have encourage the contact between students and professors and between the students. We also wanted to integer all the attendants with the local culture. For these reasons, during those days we have a brief excursion along the island, visited a lizards house (where the giant lizards of El Hierro are preserved from extinction) and the anthropological museum placed in the ancient village of 'Poblado Guinea'. We also were to the northwester cape to observe stars under the unique night sky of the island. They also enjoyed local food and even received the visit of the Folk Group of Sabinosa, one of the most ancient musical association of the Canaries whose performed a rehearsal in El Pozo during the last dinner.

The opinion of the attendants.

We made an opinion pool on the last day to all the attendants with the followings results.

- 1- The quality of the course was superb and over their expectative.
- 2- The place, accommodation, meals and the social activities were fantastic.
- 3- Professors said that this was the kind of courses that we were wished to attend when we was starting our scientific life. Students have found the course of a great help for their career and it should be repeated.

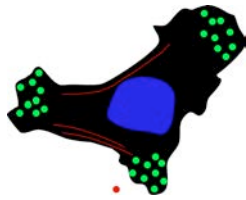
In this late aspect, it is likely that the II International Spring Course will take place in Alicante (Spain) in 2014.

The contribution of the ISN.

The funds received from ISN were used for granted all students with 200€. We can send you all of the signed receipts on request.

*Ricardo Borges and
Guillermo Álvarez de Toledo
Organizers*

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and some pictures from those days...



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