
19th International Congress of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Toronto, Canada - July 20-24, 2003

www.iubmb2003.org

Dr. Joel H. Weiner, Congress President

Canada hosted the 11th International Congress of Biochemistry in Toronto in 1979. All who attended remember this as a highlight of their scientific careers. The financial success of the Congress has left a legacy for Canadian biochemistry for the past 23 years.

In 1996 the late Peter Dolphin and Sean Brosnan prepared a bid, on behalf of CSBMCB, to the IUBMB executive committee to host the 19th International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in Canada. The bid was successful and now some six years later the Congress is nearly here. In the intervening years a large number of biochemists have volunteered their time to serve on the Executive Committee, Program Committee and local Arrangements Committee. All these committees have done an enormous amount of work to insure that the Toronto Congress will be a scientific and social success. An outstanding scientific program has been consisting of 11 plenary lectures, 64 symposia and 11 satellite meetings. Registration is now open and it is time to plan your trip to Toronto. This is also a good time to invite your colleagues from the United States and abroad to come to Canada for the Congress. We need the help of every one of you to make the Congress a success. We have worked hard to keep the registration fees as low as possible. Students will be offered reduced registration fees and early registration reductions are now in effect.

The Congress is held every three years and has become the principal international conference for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a long-standing reputation for excellence. The CSBMCB will host the Congress, which is jointly sponsored by the National Research Council of Canada, the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular

Biology, and the Pan-American Association for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Scientific Program

The incredibly rapid pace of genomics, proteomics, metabolomics and structural biology has been accompanied by an explosion of the application of biochemistry and molecular biology to a diversity of fundamental biological and medical problems, and to the development of new technologies. The scientific program will emphasize current exciting developments and emerging areas of biochemistry and molecular biology, reflecting the level of sophistication that has been achieved in this field and the promise that it holds for the future. The most obvious challenge posed by our knowledge of the human genome sequence is to determine the functions, regulation and interactions of the proteins encoded by the genome. The ways in which this challenge is being met, and the success stories to date, will be a common thread throughout the program. The following major thematic areas will be covered in the Symposia which offer something for everyone:

Proteomics and Functional Genomics;

Signal Transduction;

Gene Structure, Function and Regulation;

Specialized Subcellular Systems;

Molecular Basis of Developmental Biology;

Metabolic Regulation and Metabolic

Engineering in Health and Disease;

Molecular Medicine;

Molecular Structure, Simulation and Evolution;

Biochemical and Molecular Biological Education.

In addition to the symposium program there will be open poster sessions and several workshops.

Plenary Lectures

Through the financial support of IUBMB, PABMB and CSBMCB we have invited 11 outstanding scientists to present plenary lectures at the Congress.

The plenary lectureships and the speakers are individuals are:

Osamu Hayaishi Lecture: Tony Pawson (Canada);
E. C. Slater Lecture: Suzanne Pfeffer (USA);
IUBMB/PABMB Lecture: Alberto Kornblihtt
(Argentina);
Kunio Yagi Lecture: Dr. Shuh Narumiya (Japan);
Severo Ochoa Lecture: Jean Marc Egly, (France);
Chester Beatty Lecture: Tim Hunt (UK);
PABMB Lecture: Ramon Latorre (Chile);
FEBS Lecture: Aaron Ciechanover (Israel);
EMBO Lecture: Ari Helenius (Switzerland);
CSBMCB Roche Diagnostics Award Lecture;
Victor Ling (Canada);
CSBMCB Merck-Frosst Award Lecture:
Charles Boone (Canada)

A Very Special Event

2003 marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of the DNA double helical structure. A special evening session will be organized by the Biochemical Society (UK) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of discovery of DNA. This event will be open to the public as well as Congress participants. Speakers will include Dr. Sydney Brenner, 2002 Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Lap-Chee Tsui and Dr. Tim Caulfield.

Young Scientists Program

A pre-Congress, 3-day Young Scientists' Program, for up to 120 young scientists, will be held at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. This has been a popular event at the IUBMB Congresses for two decades. Many international friendships and scientific collaborations have begun at these meetings. Young scientists at the late post-graduate and post-doctoral phase of their careers will be chosen from all parts of the world based on the quality of submitted abstracts describing their most recent research. A call for abstracts from interested young scientists was made in the Fall of 2002. The IUBMB will provide a travel grant to the successful applicants. Accommodation, including meals, will also be provided at the pre-congress meeting. All participants will present their work as posters and some will also be invited to make oral presentations.

The program will include some invited speakers. There will be free time and some social events to allow the young scientists to make friends from around the world. Participating young scientists will be transported to the downtown University of Toronto residences for the main congress in the Toronto Convention Centre. Their accommodation and registration for the main congress will also be provided by the IUBMB. All participants will have the opportunity to present their posters as part of the main congress poster sessions.

Satellite Meetings

Several Satellite Meetings are being organized immediately prior to and following the Congress. These will complement the themes of the Congress and be attractive to a large number of Congress participants. Please contact the individuals indicated if you are interested in attending a satellite meeting.

Recent Advances in the Study of Protein-Ligand Interactions. Montreal, July 26-28, 2003; Dr Francois Denis, Email: francois.denis@inrs-iaf.quebec.ca

Liposomes: Drug Delivery Vehicles and Models of Biological Membranes. Toronto, July 19-20, 2003; Dr Pieter Cullis, Email: pieterc@interchange.ubc.ca

Delivery of Macromolecules into Cells Using Non-viral Vectors. Toronto, July 18-19, 2003; Dr Jean Gariepy, Email: gariepy@uhnres.utoronto.ca

Stress Signalling in Cancer. Quebec City, July 25-27, 2003; Dr Jacques Huot, Email: jacques.huot@phc.ulaval.ca

Pushing the Limits of Pathogenomics: Array Technologies to Study Virus-Host Cell Interactions, Vancouver, July 17-19, 2003; Dr François Jean, Email: fjean@interchange.ubc.ca

4th International Conference on Protein Kinase CK2: From Structure to Regulation and Function, London, Ontario, July 25-27, 2003; Dr David Litchfield, Email: litchfi@uwo.ca

Proteases in Health and Disease. Montreal, July 18-25, 2003; Dr Nabil Seidah, Email: seidah@ircm.gc.ca

3rd International GATA Transcription Factors in Health and Disease. Montreal, July 16-18,2003; Dr Mona Nemer, Email: Mona.nemer@ircm.gc.ca

Education in the Molecular Life Sciences: The Central Role of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (sponsored by IUBMB, ASBMB and Project Kaleidoscope). Toronto, July 18-20,2003; Dr Ellis Bell, Email: jbell2@richmond.edu and Kelly Gull, Email: kgull@asbmb.faseb.org

Biomolecular Structure and Drug Discovery; Toronto, July 25-26,2003; Dr Emil Pai, Email:pai@hera.med.utoronto.ca and Dr Lakshmi Kotra, Email: pkotra@phm.utoronto.ca

International Society for Enzymology. Niagara Falls, New York, July 18-19,2003; Dr David Goldberg, Email: david.goldberg@utoronto.ca

Social Program

In addition to the strong scientific program we have planned a number of social events to allow you to meet with colleagues. This includes the Opening Reception on Sunday evening after the Opening Ceremony and the Soiree Dansante, Music of the 21st Century to be held on Tuesday evening. We have also organized a number of Tours to allow congress attendees to appreciate the museums, history and scenic attractions of Toronto as well as the McMichael Art Gallery and the Niagara region.

Accommodation

We have booked blocks of rooms in a number of hotels as well as dormitories at Ryerson Polytechnic University and the University of Toronto.

Commercial Exhibition

An extensive Commercial Exhibition, located in a spacious hall adjacent to the poster area, will provide the opportunity for first-hand examination of the latest instrumentation and techniques in diverse fields.

I sincerely hope to see you in Toronto in July. We want to make this Congress as memorable for all participants as the extremely successful 1979 Congress. You can do your part by attending and bringing your trainees and inviting your colleagues.