forefronts IN NEPHROLOGY

Induction and Resolution of Renal Inflammation

May 6-9, 2010
Sylt, Germany

ISN FOREFRONTS 2010

PROGRAM

Advancing Nephrology around the World Celebrating 50 Years

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY ISN 1960

Program

Thursday 6 May 2010	
17:00-17:15	**Rolf A.K. Stahl**, Hamburg, Germany ***Welcome and Opening Remarks***
17:15-18:00	**Derek W. Gilroy**, London, UK ***Resolution of inflammation: State of the art, Definition and Terms***
18:00-19:30	**Welcome Reception**

Friday 7 May 2010	
09:00-11:00	**Session 1: Innate Immune response** **Eicke Latz**, Bonn, Germany Sensing pathogens and danger signals by inflammasome **Hans-Joachim Anders**, Munich, Germany TLR in renal inflammation **Caroline Savage**, Birmingham, UK Neutrophils in Inflammatory renal disease Short Talks to be chosen from Abstracts
11:00-11:30	**Coffee Break**
11:30-13:00	**Session 2: Resolution of inflammation** Chair: Andy Rees, Vienna, Austria **Adriano G. Rossi**, Edinburgh, UK New strategies for enhancing the resolution of inflammation **Jeremy Hughes**, Edinburgh, UK Inflammatory cells in renal repair / resolution **David C. Harris**, Sydney, Australia Pro and anti-inflammatory role of macrophages in renal inflammation
13:00-14:00	**Networking Lunch**

14:00-15:30	**Session 3: Role of Chemokines and their receptors in immunity and inflammation** Chair: Christian Kurts, Bonn, Germany Short Talks to be chosen from Abstracts **Ulf Panzer**, Hamburg, Germany The role of chemokines receptors in T cell mediated glomerulonephritis **Reinhold Förster**, Hannover, Germany Homeostatic chemokines in development, plasticity, and a functional organization of the immune system **Marcus Thelen**, Bellinzona, Switzerland Function of chemokine decoy receptors in tuning the immune response
15:30-16:00	**Coffee Break**
16:00-18:00	**Session 4: Mediators of Inflammation** Chair: Richard Kitching, Melbourne, Australia **Gabriela Garcia**, Denver, USA A2A adenosine receptors as modulators of inflammation Short Talks to be chosen from Abstracts **Peter Heeringa**, Groningen, The Netherlands Antibodies in renal autoimmune disease **Neil S. Sheerin**, Newcastle, UK The role of the complement system in renal inflammation
18:00-20:00	**Poster Session**

Saturday 8 May 2010	
09:00-11:00	**Session 5: Innate Immune response: New cellular players** Chair: Alexander R. Rosenkranz, Innsbruck, Austria **Matthias Mack,** Regensburg, Germany New insight in the role of Basophils in immune regulation **Stephen Holdsworth,** Melbourne, Australia Mast cells in autoimmune disease and glomerulonephritis **Christian Kurts,** Bonn, Germany NKT cells, CTL, dendritic cells and CCR4: New interactions between old players **Stephan Segerer,** Zürich, Switzerland Dendritic cells in human glomerulonephritis
11:00-11:30	**Coffee Break**

11:30-13:30	**Session 6: Adaptive Immune response: T Lymphocytes** Chair: Stephen Holdsworth, Melbourne, Australia **Ari Waisman**, Mainz, Germany Th17 immune response in autoimmunity **Richard Kitching**, Melbourne, Australia T cell mediated renal tissue damage **Kathrin Eller**, Innsbruck, Austria Function of regulatory T cells in renal inflammation Short Talks to be chosen from Abstracts
13:30-14:30	**Networking Lunch**
14:30-16:30	**Mudflat Hiking Tour (North Sea)**
17:00-19:00	**Session 7: Adaptive Immune response: B Lymphocytes** Chair: Rolf A.K. Stahl, Hamburg, Germany **Anja Hauser**, Berlin, Germany In vivo imaging of germinal-center B cell migration **Oliver Steinmetz**, Melbourne, Australia Characterization of renal B cell infiltrates in human glomerulonephritis **Michael Mengel**, Edmonton, Canada Role of B cells in acute and chronic allograft rejection **Reinhard E. Voll**, Erlangen, Germany Depletion of plasma cells – a novel strategy in SLE
20:00-22:30	**Dinner**

Sunday 9 May 2010	
09:00-11:00	**Session 8: New concepts in renal autoimmune disease** Chair: William Couser, Seattle, USA **William Couser**, Seattle, USA Membranous Nephropathy **Renate Kain**, Vienna, Austria Role of LAMP2 in ANCA associated Vasculitis **Richard J. Johnson**, Denver, USA The podocyte as a dendritic cell: Studies in Minimal Change Disease Short Talks to be chosen from Abstracts
11:00-11:15	**Richard J. Johnson**, Denver, USA ***Closing Remarks***

Speakers Portfolio

Hans-Joachim Anders

1988-89	Medical School, Georg-August University Göttingen
1990-94	Medical School, Julius-Maximilians University Würzburg
1995-6	Internship, Medizinische Poliklinik, Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich
1995-02	Residency and nephrology fellowship, Medizinische Poliklinik:
2001	German internal medicine boards
2002	German nephrology boards
2005	German rheumatology boards
2003	Assistant Professor ('Privatdozent') of Medicine
2004	Consultant Nephrologist, Nephrology Center, University of Munich
	Head of the lupus clinic University of Munich – Inner city campus
2008-	Vice chair of University of Munich Nephrology Center – Inner city campus,
	Nephrology/ transplantation in- and outpatient service
	Head of the general internal medicine service at Medical Policlinic
2009	Professor – internal medicine
	Franz-Volhard Award- German Society of Nephrology

William Couser

William Couser is Affiliate Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, WA, USA. From 1982-2004 he was the Belding Scribner Professor of Medicine and Head of the Division of Nephrology. He is past-president of both the American and International Societies of Nephrology and currently serves as Chairman of the ISN Global Outreach Programs (formerly COMGAN). Dr Couser has over 300 publications on immune glomerular disease. His laboratory, and that of Dr Hoedemaeker in the Netherlands, were the first to document that subepithelial immune deposits in the Heymann nephritis models of membranous nephropathy formed in situ due to antibody binding to a normal podocyte antigen. His group was also the first to establish a role for complement in experimental membranous nephropathy and subsequently described the role of C5b-9 in several other glomerular and progressive proteinuric interstitial renal diseases.

Kathrin Eller

Kathrin Eller (maiden name: Hochegger) was born 1978 in Vienna, Austria. She finished medical school 2002 at the Medical University Vienna and worked as a research fellow for 6 months at the Institute for Immunology in Vienna. Afterwards she moved to Innsbruck to work as a research fellow in the Laboratory of Experimental Nephrology at the Innsbruck Medical University, headed by Alexander Rosenkranz. Since 2005 she is a clinical fellow at the Department of Internal Medicine IV – Nephrology and Hypertension, Innsbruck Medical University. In 2009 she was married to Philipp Eller. The main research focus of Dr. Eller is the evaluation of immunoregulatory mechanisms in experimental glomerulonephritis.

Reinhold Förster

Reinhold Förster is Full Professor of Immunology and Head of the Institute of Immunology at Hannover Medical School. He studied Veterinary Medicine in Munich and Cambridge (UK) and graduated at the University of Munich in 1988 as a veterinary surgeon. In 1991, he obtained his doctorate in veterinary medicine summa cum laude with a dissertation on the role of pox viruses and

pox virus protein on neutrophil function. From 1991-1993, he stayed as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Prof. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker at the GenCenter at Munich University starting his work on chemokines and their receptors. From 1994 to 2000 he worked as a research associate at the Max-Delbrueck-Center for Molecular Medicine in Berlin. In 2000, he was appointed Associate Professor (C3) at the University Clinic for Surgery of the University of Erlangen, and in 2001, he was appointed to his current position at MHH.

Gabriela Garcia

Gabriela Garcia received her MD in Mexico. She was awarded a scholarship to conduct research at Tokai University in Japan and with a Fellowship Award from the International Society of Nephrology she performed research at the University of California, San Diego. She became research associated at The Scripps Research Institute in the laboratory of Dr. Curtis Wilson and Dr. Lili Feng in where she started her work in kidney inflammation. She then became Instructor of Medicine and later Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine and in July 2009 Dr. Garcia moved to The University of Colorado Denver as a Research Assistant Professor. Dr. Garcia's research is focused on the pathogenesis of inflammatory kidney diseases to identify mediator of inflammation, mainly chemokines, to use them as a therapeutic targets and to identify endogenous anti-inflammatory molecules that could be modulated through agonists to treat inflammatory kidney diseases.

Derek W Gilroy

In 1997 Derek Gilroy obtained his PhD from the William Harvey Research Institute, University of London for investigations in the role of inducible cyclooxygenase in inflammation working with the late Professors Derek Willoughby and Sir John Vane. Thereafter, he received postdoctoral training jointly at the Houston Health Sciences Centre and at Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, returning to the William Harvey Research Institute in 2000. In 2004, Derek was appointed as New Blood lecturer funded as a Wellcome Trust Career Development Fellow at the Dept. Medicine, University College London and is currently a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow. There, his research interests focus on elucidating the molecular and biochemical pathways that regulate the resolution of acute inflammatory reactions. Dr Gilroy has won the Bayer International Young Investigator Award for aspirin Research, 2005 and the British Pharmacological Society, Novartis Award, 2007.

David Harris

David Harris is Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean and Head of Sydney Medical School – Westmead, University of Sydney. He is Chairman of the Fellowship Committee and the Oceania and SE Asia Committee of ISN. He is Past-President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN), Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Australasian Kidney Trials Network and Editor-in-Chief of the journal Nephrology. In 1998 he was awarded the TJ Neale Award for outstanding contributions to Nephrological Science (ANZSN), he delivered the Ross Bailey Lecture at the 11th Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology in 2008 and was the 2008 ANZSN Established Investigator. His current laboratory focus is on novel therapeutic approaches for treating experimental chronic kidney disease.

Anja Hauser

Dr. med. vet. Anja Erika Hauser studied veterinary medicine at the Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover, Germany from 1993 to 1999. She became interested in lymphocyte trafficking during her dissertation at the Deutsches Rheuma-Forschungszentrum (DRFZ) Berlin where she investigated the migration of antibody secreting cells (plasma cells). In 2004, she joined Prof. Mark Shlomchik's laboratory at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, USA as a postdoctoral fellow and started working on B lymphocyte migration in vivo. In a close collaboration with Prof. Ulrich von Andrian´s lab (Harvard Medical School, Boston) she established a system for intravital imaging of

germinal center B cells in lymph nodes of live mice. In 2008 she returned to Germany and established her own lab at the DRFZ which focuses on the analysis of immune dynamics using multiphoton intravital microscopy.

Peter Heeringa

Peter Heeringa obtained his PhD from the University of Groningen, the Netherlands in 1997. From 1998 until 2000 he was a postdoctoral fellow in the nephropathology laboratory of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (head: Prof. Charles J. Jennette. His main research focus is on the development and characterization of animal models of ANCA-associated glomerulonephritis and vasculitis. Currently, he is an associate professor in the department of Pathology and Medical biology, University Medical Center Groningen, the Netherlands.

Stephen Holdsworth

Professor Holdsworth is Head of the Centre for Inflammatory Diseases and the Department of Medicine Monash University at the Monash Medical Centre. He is also Head of the Department of Medicine and the Southern Clinical School at Monash University's Medical Faculty. Professor Holdsworth is a senior consultant nephrologist in the Department of Renal Medicine at Monash Medical Centre and Head of the Department of Clinical & Diagnostic Immunology. The focus of his research is immunologically mediated renal injury. This involves experimental animal models of human glomerulonephritis particularly proliferative crescentic GN associated with vasculitis. This work is critically informed by clinical observations so that hypotheses about critical pathways of injury can be modelled and studied in relevant animal models.

Richard J. Johnson

Dr. Richard J Johnson is Chief of the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension at the University of Colorado. He received his undergraduate degree in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin, and his M.D. from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Dr. Johnson joined the faculty at the University of Washington in 1986 and has since served as Chief of Nephrology at Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Florida, and currently at the University of Colorado Denver. He remains actively involved as Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Florida. He has performed extensive research on the role of uric acid and fructose in the epidemic of obesity, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, and hypertension. He has published over 420 articles, lectured in over 30 countries, and is currently coeditor of the very successful clinical textbook, *Comprehensive Clinical Nephrology*. His lay book, *The Sugar Fix* (Rodale), was published in 2008.

Renate Kain

Renate Kain qualified in Medicine in Vienna before training in general and renal pathology with Dontschko Kerjaschki in Vienna and Michael Mihatsch in Basel. After research training in in renal cell biology in Vienna, she spent four years as a postdoctoral fellow with Minoru Fukuda at the Burnham Institute, La Jolla, California. In 1999 she became a Kidney Research UK Senior Research Fellow at Aberdeen University where she remained until returning to her present post in Institute of Clinical pathology at the Medical University in Vienna. Dr Kain's research focuses on glycoproteins as targets for autoimmunity in glomerulonephritis.

Richard Kitching

Professor Richard Kitching is a nephrologist and physician-scientist at Monash University/Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne, Australia. His research focuses on the pathogenesis of immune renal disease, particularly the involvement of leukocytes in glomerulonephritis. T cells are important in determining the direction of damaging adaptive immune responses, but also act as effector cells in some forms of glomerulonephritis. Prof Kitching has published a number of papers on the role of T

cells in the pathogenesis of glomerulonephritis, especially the roles of Th1, Th2 and more recently the Th17 subset. He is chair of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) Scientific Program and Education Committee. In 1998 he was awarded the ANZSN Young Investigator Award, has won awards for Best Basic Scientific Research at the ANZSN Annual Scientific meeting, and in 2007 was awarded the ANZSN TJ Neale Award for Outstanding Contribution to Nephrological Science.

Christian Kurts

Christian Kurts studied medicine and physics in Göttingen and trained as physician and nephrologist in Hannover and Aachen, Germany. He obtained his scientific education in Immunology at the Dept. of Immunology in Göttingen, the Walter and Elisa Hall Institute for Medical Research in Melbourne, Australia, and at the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology in San Diego, USA. He currently directs the Institute of Experimental Immunology at the University Clinic of Bonn, Germany, focusing his research on renal dendritic cells in the healthy and diseased kidney, peripheral immune tolerance and on antigen cross-presentation.

Eicke Latz

Prof Eicke Latz received clinical training in Intensive Care Medicine at the Charite University in Berlin. After postdoctural research training in the pharmaceutical industry and the University of Massachusetts he was appointed to faculty at the University of Massachusetts. Professor Latz founded and heads the UMass NanoMedicine Institute, within which novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for inflammatory diseases are engineered. He is also an adjunct Professor at the Norwegian Technical University in Trondheim at the Centre for Molecular Imaging. Professor Latz has extensive experience in the field of innate immunity and Toll-like receptor biology. His lab focuses on investigating the molecular mechanisms of innate immune receptor activation. His group develops molecular imaging techniques and methods that are applicable to high-throughput screening. Professor Latz has recently been recruited to the University of Bonn where he is establishing the Institute of Innate Immunity.

Matthias Mack

Prof. Matthias Mack completed Medical School at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich in 1996. In 2003 he completed specialization in Internal Medicine and Nephrology at the University of Munich in the Department of Internal Medicine and Nephrology under supervision of Prof. Schlondorff. Since 2004 he is Professor of Medicine and Nephrology at the University Hospital in Regensburg. He completed his doctoral thesis at the Institute of Immunology in Munich in 1995 with a work on bispecific single chain antibodies. In 2002 he obtained the venia legendi for Internal Medicine at the University of Munich with work on chemokines and chemokine receptors in inflammatory diseases. His main scientific interest is the immunological basis of renal diseases, fibrosis and the role of basophils for regulation of immune responses.

Michael Mengel

After studying medicine at the Semmelweiss University in Budapest, Hungary, Dr. Mengel did his residency in the Department of Pathology at Hannover Medical School, Germany. While there he became specialized in pathology and subsequently transplantation and nephropathology.
He was head of the transplant pathology service with responsibility for diagnostics and research based on transplant biopsies at the transplant centre in Hannover. In collaboration with the Department of Nephrology, one of the largest protocol biopsy programs after renal transplantation was established at the transplant centre in Hannover. In December 2006 he came to Edmonton and joined the Alberta Transplant Applied Genomics Centre (Director Philip F. Halloran) where he had the opportunity to apply modern molecular microarray techniques together with sophisticated

bioinformatics tools to well-documented clinical material from large biopsy series. Currently his major research focus the molecular based refinement of the histopathological assessment of organ transplant biopsies.

Ulf Panzer

Ulf Panzer studied medicine in Hamburg from 1989 – 1996. From 1996 to 2006 he completed his clinical training in internal medicine and nephrology at the Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) under the supervision of Prof. Rolf A.K. Stahl. 2002-2003 he worked as a post doc at the Institute for Research in Biomedicine in Bellinzona.
The focus of Dr. Panzer is the function of chemokines and chemokine receptors in leukocyte trafficking. By using neutralizing antibodies, receptor antagonists, and gene-deficient mice, his group has studied the function of chemokine receptors with special focus on T cell trafficking in experimental models. In addition he characterized the expression patterns and the functional implications of these chemokine receptors in human renal inflammatory disease. Since 2009, he is leader of the Clinical Research Group 228 “Immunopathogenesis and Therapy of Glomerulonephritis” funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft at the UKE. In 2010 Dr. Panzer was appointed as a W3 Professor at the Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf.

Andy Rees

Andy Rees holds a Marie Curie Excellence Chair at the Institute of Clinical Pathology, Medical University of Vienna. He qualified in Medicine in Liverpool and trained in internal medicine and nephrophrology in London first with Stewart Cameron at Guys Hospital and then with Keith Peters at Royal Postgraduate Medical School. He became a Senior Lecturer at RPMS and subsequently Professor of Nephrology and head of the unit. In 2004, he was appointed Regius Professor in Medicine at Aberdeen University. He moved to Vienna in 2007. His research focuses on two aspects of glomerular injury: defining the molecular basis for pathogenic autoimmune responses to kidney proteins; and characterising what controls the function of kidney infiltrating macrophages and dictates whether they become activated to cause injury or to promote tissue repair.

Adriano G Rossi

Adriano G Rossi, BSc (Hons), PhD is Professor of Respiratory and Inflammation Pharmacology in the MRC Centre for Inflammation Research at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. After obtaining a BSc and PhD in Pharmacology at the University of Glasgow, Adriano carried out postdoctoral research at Wake Forest University, North Carolina in Professor Joseph O’Flaherty laboratory. He returned to the UK after gaining a Wellcome Trust Post-doctoral fellowship which led to a lectureship in Professor Tim William’s department at the National Heart & Lung Institute, University of London. He then moved to Edinburgh and joined Professor Chris Haslett’s Respiratory Medicine Unit at the University of Edinburgh and is now heading his own research group investigating the mechanisms regulating inflammatory cell function and apoptosis with the hope of developing novel approaches for the treatment inflammatory diseases.

Alexander R. Rosenkranz

Clinical and Research Fellowships: Institute of Immunology, University of Vienna, Austria; Internal Medicine, Renal Division, University of Vienna, Austria; Vascular Research Division, Department of Pathology, Brigham&Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School; Renal Consultant, Innsbruck Medical Universtiy since 2000; since 2001 Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Innsbruck, Austria; since 2003 Group Leader of the “Laboratory of Experimental Nephrology”
Awards: Research Award of the Austrian Society of Nephrology (1995, 2005, 2006); Young Investigator Award at the Vascular Biology Meeting, San Francisco 1998; ESAO-Membrana Research Award (1999); „Carl-Ludwig-Preis “, German Renal Society (1999); „Josef-Skoda-Preis“, Austrian

Society of Internal Medicine (2004); „Investigator-Award“, Austrian Society of Hypertension(2005 “Biotest-Preis” of the Austrian Society of Transplantation (2008).
Major Research Interests: Role of regulatory cells T cells and mast cells in experimental glomerulonephritis; experimental renal ischemia/reperfusion injury/acute renal failure; CKD-MBD and phosphate metabolism; Biocompatibility in hemodialysis.

Caroline Savage

Professor Caroline Savage is Professor of Nephrology at the University of Birmingham and Honorary Consultant Physician at University Hospitals Birmingham, NHS Foundation Trust. She qualified from the Royal London Hospital Medical School in 1978 and trained in renal medicine at Hammersmith Hospital, London. She is interested in all aspects of renal patient care but has a specific clinical and laboratory interest in inflammatory and immune mediated kidney diseases. Professor Savage is also Director of the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility in Birmingham and Academic Vice-President of the Renal Association.

Stephan Segerer

Stephan Segerer was born in 1968 in Vilseck (Germany). He studied medicine at the University of Regensburg and Munich. He received his clinical training between 1995 and 2006 at the Medical Policlinic at the Universität of Munich. He passed the boards in internal medicine and nephrology. He spent 2 years at the Department of Pathology at the University of Washington in Seattle (1999-2001). Currently he is an attending at the Division of Nephrology, University Hospital Zurich. There he is director of renal replacement therapy unit. He is working on the recruitment of inflammatory cells during renal inflammation, particularly the role of chemokines.

Neil Sheerin

Neil Sheerin completed his medical training at Guy’s Hospital, London. After some years away he returned to Guy’s to study for his PhD and complete his training in Nephrology, firstly as Wingate Lecturer then as a Wellcome Trust Advanced Fellow. In 2007 Dr. Sheerin took up the post as Professor of Nephrology in Newcastle University. His laboratory research has focused on understanding the immune mechanisms of renal disease exploring this interaction between adaptive and innate immunity in progressive kidney fibrosis at a genetic, cellular and whole system level. This work has centred on the complement system. Complement activation during glomerular disease is well known, but more recently its contribution to interstitial injury and transplant rejection has been established. These new findings along with advances in complement therapeutics highlight the importance of understanding the roles complement activation in inflammatory renal disease.

Rolf AK Stahl

Prof. Stahl is Professor of Medicine at the University Hospital Eppendorf, University of Hamburg, Germany. From 2001 to 2007, he was Vice Dean, then Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Hamburg. Since 2008, Prof. Stahl is the Head of the hospital 3rd Division of Medicine.

1969-75	Medical School, University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim and Eberhardt-Karls- University
1975-77	Internship, Hospital Siloah, Pforzheim, Germany
1977-78	Residency in Pathology, Department of Pathology, Eberhards-Karls-University of Tuebiegn, Germany
1978-80	Berta H. Henry C. Buswell Fellow and Research Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Suny, Buffalo, NY, USA
1980-85	Residency in Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University Hospital, Albert-Ludwigs-University, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

1985-87	Visiting Scholar, Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, University of Washington, Seatle, USA
1987-93	Associate Professor of Medicine, Department Head of Medicine, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Since 1993	Head of the 3rd Division of Medicine, University Hospital Eppendorf, University of Hamburg, Germany

Oliver Steinmetz

Studies: Human medicine at Universities of Cologne and Hamburg
2001 Doctoral thesis at the Centre for Molecular Neurobiology Hamburg (Head: Prof. Dr. Olaf Pongs)
since 2001 Resident and research associate, Division of Nephrology, University of Hamburg (Head Prof. Dr. Rolf Stahl) University of Hamburg Eppendorf, Germany
2008-2010 postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Inflammatory Diseases, Monash Medical Centre (Head Prof. Dr. Stephen Holdsworth) Clayton Victoria, Australia sponsored by a grant from the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Marcus Thelen

Marcus Thelen studied biochemistry at the University of Tübingen (DE). He received his PhD in 1985 from the University of Bern. Then, he moved to the Thodor-Kocher-Institute in Bern where his interest started to focus on inflammation and chemokines. In 1989 he went to the Rockefeller University in New York investigating biochemical aspects of cyotokine- and endotoxin-mediated phagocyte priming and cytoskeleton-mediated signal transduction. In 1992 he was received a career development award from the Swiss National Science Foundation and returned to the Theodor-Kocher-Institute at the University of Bern. He created his own research group working on molecular mechanisms of signal transduction in leukocytes focusing on PI3-kinase-dependent pathways and chemokine-mediated receptor activation. In 2000 he moved to Bellinzona and assisted in the opening of the Institute for Research in Biomedicine. He heads since then the Laboratory of Signal Transduction.

Reinhard Voll

After his doctorate in molecular virology Dr. Voll worked as resident in Internal Medicine, Rheumatology, Immunology and Hemato-Oncology. He discovered the anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive effects of apoptotic cells (Voll et al., 1997, Nature). Receiving a fellowship from the German Research Society he joined the laboratory of Dr. Sankar Ghosh, Yale University, to work on the role of NF-κB in lymphocytes (Voll et al., 2000, Immunity). From 2003 to 2009, Dr. Voll directed the IZKF research group 2, Erlangen. Since 2005 he is attending physician in Clinical Rheumatology at the University Hospital Erlangen. Recently, his laboratory discovered that the proteasome inhibitor bortezomib depletes plasma cells and ameliorates lupus nephritis in mouse models (Neubert et al., 2008, Nature Medicine). The relevance of HMGB1-nucleosome complexes and TLR2 in the pathogenesis of SLE was described (Urbonaviciute et al., 2008, J Exp. Med.). Currently, he continues to work on the pathogenesis of SLE and novel treatment strategies for inflammatory diseases.

Ari Waisman

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazl. Educated in Israel. BSc, Tel-Aviv University, Israel. MSc and PhD, Weizmann Institute of Science Israel (1994). From 1994 to 1996, postdoc with L. Steinman at the Immunology Department of the Weizmann Institute. From 1996 to 2001, postdoc with K. Rajewsky, Institute for Genetics in Cologne, Germany and from 2001 to 2005, independent group leader in the same institute. As from 2005 to date a member of the University Medical Center of the University of Mainz, first as an associate professor in the first medical department and from 2009 as the acting director of the Institute for Molecular Medicine.