2002 AOSCE News Letter
The Asia & Oceania Society for Comparative Endocrinology

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Sorry

Note:

Sorry for such a delay distributing 2002 AOSCE News Letter. It was because of some problems in gathering some materials.

Let us attend 4th Intercongress Symposium of the AOSCE which will be held October 8-11, at Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, China.

From Kyungjin Kim
2002 4th InterCongress Symposium of AOSCE: Guangzhou China

- Date: October 8-11, 2002
- Venue: Swiss Hall, Zhongshan University, Guangzhou 510275, China

Dr. Lin Hao-Ran, Chair, Local Organizing Committee
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Symposium Schedule

Oct. 8: Registration, Welcome reception
Oct. 9: Opening ceremony
Plenary lectures
Scientific sessions (Oral presentation)
AOSCE Council Meeting

Oct. 10: Scientific sessions (Oral presentation)
Poster presentation

Oct. 11: Plenary lectures
Scientific sessions (Oral presentation)
Farewell banquet

Message: From the President’s Desk

Comparative Endocrinology requires to enter into a new era with full vigour. We, the members of AOSCE, have to realize the need of the hour and the changing scenario of biological research. The word “Comparative” is getting additional importance; people are frequently using “Comparative Genomics” and “Comparative Proteomics” jargons in focusing their research for meaningful contributions. It appears that Comparative Studies have opened more challenges and have added greater values to our investigations. Comparative Endocrinology even about a decade ago was thought to be a very traditional biology lacking the lustre of modern biology. Today, it definitely shows the shines as incredibly valuable information being gathered from invertebrates and vertebrates in explaining the molecular origin and mechanisms for hormonal signals.

We are now progressing through a critical stage of rapidly changing approaches in getting the answers for critical questions. Barriers between scientific disciplines are gradually dissolving. A Comparative Endocrinologist today is utilizing techniques of molecular biology, biochemistry, immunology, biophysics, cellular physiology, etc. besides the traditional approaches. Comparative Endocrinology, therefore, is now a potential strong domain to have new discoveries and many breakthroughs. Members of AOSCE have to understand the trend of modernization where genomics and proteomics are very much within our research and there is a need to have more extensive collaborations by addressing meaningful targets.

We apologize for the delay in the release of AOSCE News Letter but we are going to have a more definite plan to develop more scope for academic exchanges.

With very best wishes to all.

From Dr. Samir Bhattacharya

Officers of the AOSCE (2001-2004)

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- Chonthamnakun Sukumal (Thailand) scsct@mahidol.ac.th
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- Jean Joss (Australia) joss@mn.bio.mq.edu.au.
- Graham Young (New Zealand) graham.young@stonebow.tago.ac.nz

News from Comparative Endocrinology in Japan:

- Prof. Kazuyoshi Tsutsui (Hiroshima University) who used to study in Dr. Susumi Ishii's laboratory and is going to be awarded with the Prize of the Zoological Society of Japan this year for his study on neural sex steroids in birds.

- Dr. Hideo Nakazawa who used to study in Dr. Susumi Ishii's laboratory and now in Tokho University is going to be awarded with the Prize for the Best Paper Published in "Zoological Science" in 2000 for his paper on the electric activity of the nasal mucosa during the toad breeding migration.

Brief Archives and History of the AOSCE

History
- The AOSCE was first conceived at the 10th International Symposium for Comparative Endocrinology held in Copper Mountain, Colorado, USA in 1985.
- Under the auspices of the Japan Society for Comparative Endocrinology, the first Congress of the AOSCE was held in Nagoya, Japan in 1987. In this meeting the constitution was adopted and the first council elected. The first president of the AOSCE was Prof. Susumu Ishii.

General Information
- The AOSCE Congresses have been held every 4 years since 1987 and inter-congress regional symposia are held between Congresses.
- Newsletter will be sent annually to keep members informed of activities.
- The Society is affiliated with General and Comparative Endocrinology (GCE) and The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology as a formal medium for publishing and reading about latest research findings and also.
- Membership category: Ordinary (US$50), Student (US$20), Associate (US$50), Corporate (US$100)
List of Ex-Presidents and Officers

1987-1992: President: Susumu Ishii (Japan)
Secretary-General: John Y.-L. Yu
Secretary: John Y.-L. Yu
Treasurer: K. O. Chan
Auditor: Tom J. Lam

1992-1996: President: John Y.L. Yu (Taiwan)
Secretary-General: Jean M. P. Joss
Secretary: Masaru Wada
Treasurer: Stephen H. Shih
Auditor: Tom J. Lam

Council Members:
- Samir Bhattacharya (India)
- D.K.O. Chan (Hong Kong)
- S.T.H. Chan (Hong Kong)
- Tetsuya Hirano (Japan)
- Susumu Ishii (Japan)
- Jean Joss (Australia)
- F.J. Lakanilao (Philippines)
- T.J. Lam (Singapore)
- Hao-Ran Lin (P.R. China)
- Yoshitaka Nagahama (Japan)
- D.R. Naik (India)
- R.N. Saxena (India)
- Stephen Shih (Taiwan)
- Eddy S.P. Tan (Malaysia)
- P. Vararudhi (Thailand)
- Masaru Wada (Japan)
- Y.D. Yoon (Korea)
- John Y.L. Yu (Taiwan)
- Graham Young (New Zealand)

1996-2000: President: Jean Joss (Australia) jjoss@rna.bio.mq.edu.au.

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Treasurer: Graham Young (New Zealand) graham.young@stonebow.tago.ac.nz
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- Graham Young (New Zealand) graham.young@stonebow.tago.ac.nz
Congress and Regional Symposia

1987: 1st Congress of the AOSCE
- When: 1987
- Where: Nagoya, Japan

1990: 1st Inter-Congress Symposium of AOSCE
- When: December, 1989
- Where: Hong Kong

1992: 2nd Congress of the AOSCE
- When: December, 1991
- Where: New Delhi, India

1994: 2nd Inter-Congress Symposium of AOSCE
- When: 1993
- Where: Thailand

1996: 3rd Congress of the AOSCE
- When: January 22-26, 1996
- Where: Sydney (Macquarie University), Australia
- Local Organizing Committee (Chairperson: Jean Joss)

1998: 3rd Inter-Congress Symposium of AOSCE
- When: September 22-25, 1998
- Where: Kwangju (Chonnam National University), Korea
- Local Organizing Committee (Chairman: Kwon Hyuk-Bang)

2000: 4th Congress of the AOSCE: AOSCE 2000 Taipei
- When: May 14-18, 2000
- Where: Academia Sinia, Taipei, Taiwan
- Local Organizing Committee (Chairman: John Y.L. Yu)

2002: 4th Inter-Congress Symposium of AOSCE
- When: September 16-19, 2002
- Where: Zhongshan University, Guangzhou 510275, China
- Local Organizing Committee (Chairman: Hao-Ran Lin) ls32@zsu.edu.cn

2004: 5th Congress of the AOSCE: Japan
- When: 2004
- Where: Japan
- Local Organizing Committee (Chairman: Oishi Tadashi Japan) oishi@cc.nara-u.ac.jp

1989: 11th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology
- When: 1989
- Where: Malaga, Spain

1993: 12nd International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology
- When: 1993
- Where: Toronto, Canada

1997: 13rd International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology
- When: Nov. 16-21, 1997
- Where: Yokohama (Pacifico Conference Center), Japan

2001: 14th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology
- When: May 26-30, 2001
- Where: Sorrento, Italy
Special Feature: Report on 4th AOSCE Congress, Taipei

Dr. John Y.L. Yu (Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan)

The 4th Congress of The Asia and Oceania Society for Comparative Endocrinology was held at Academic Activity Center, Academia Sinica, Taipei, during May 14-18, 2000.

The International Organizing Committee was composed of 20 AOSCE Council Members, and the National Organizing Members was composed of 23 scientists from Taiwan. Prof. J.Y.L. Yu, Endocrinology Laboratory, Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, hosted the 4th AOSCE Congress.

The number of the participants was 225 including 130 from local and the rest 95 from abroad: Japan, Korea, India, Thailand, Australia, Philippines, USA and Italy. The scientific program covered 5 plenary lectures, 8 symposia, 2 oral presentations and 2 poster sessions, with a total of 146 papers presented. The Congress covered broad aspects of comparative endocrinology: reproduction, growth and metabolism, hormone and receptor interaction and signal transduction, neuroendocrinology, environmental and conservation, gonad and development, and evolution. Papers related to reproduction and neuroendocrinology represented the largest proportions.

The social-cultural program included welcoming reception on May 14 evening, one-day tour to Palace Museum and National Yang-Ming-Shan Park (May 17), congress party held in Grand Hotel on May 17 evening and farewell party on May 18 evening. In the congress party, a classical Chinese musical performance and a royal dance show were provided. In addition, there were accompanying members' programs to visit the nearby natural and cultural spots.

AOSCE Council Meeting was held on May 16 evening chaired by Prof. Jean Joss. A new council was formed with Prof. Samir Bhattacharya elected as new President of the Society. The Council decided that the 5th AOSCE Congress will be held at Nara, Japan in 2004. Prof. Tadashi Oishi will organize the meeting.

The Congress was open up on May 15 morning by Prof. John Yu, followed by an opening address from Prof. Jean Joss, the President of AOSCE. At the closing ceremony, Prof. Aubrey Gorbman and Prof. Samir Bhattacharya gave comments. Among the senior comparative endocrinologists and AOSCE council members, other than the ones mentioned earlier, who attended the congress were Prof(s): Hideshi Kobayashi, Susumu Ishii, Seichiro Kawashima, R.N. Saxena, Sakae Kikuyama, Masaru Wada, Kiyoshi Shimada, Kazuyoshi Tsutsui, Yong-Dal Yoon, Hyuk-Bang Kwon, Kyungjin Kim, Evelyn G. T. de Jesus, Prakong Tangpraputgul and Stephen Shih. Congress publications included Abstract Proceedings and Participants' List. The proceedings of full-length papers presented in the congress were published in summer of 2001, under the title of “Recent Advances in Comparative Endocrinology”. The Proceedings contain a total of 58 papers selected from plenary lectures, symposium sessions, oral communications and posters. It also included photographs taken during the Congress, to illustrate some features of the activities and to document memories of the sessions.
Special Feature: 14th Int'l Congress of Comparative Endocrinology

Sorrento Sketches (Dr. Jae Young Seong, Hormone Research Center, Chonnam National University, Kwangju, Korea)

The 14th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology (ICCE) was held in Sorrento, Italy on May 26 - 30, 2001. Sorrento is located 30 km southeast from Naples, and is famous for the Mediterranean warm climate and its beautiful landscapes that are attractive enough to captivate tourists all over the world. Such a beautiful city, Sorrento has gathered about six hundred comparative endocrinologists. The 14th ICCE began with the opening remarks by Dr. Hubert Vaudry, the president of IFCES (Participating Societies of the International Federation of Comparative Endocrinology) followed by an opening lecture by Dr. P.S. Corsi (France). During 4 days schedule, 2 plenary lectures, including the plenary lecture in honor of H. Kobayashi, 2 special lectures, 19 state-of-the-art lectures, 75 symposium talks, and 28 oral communications have been organized, and 280 posters have been displayed throughout the congress. Around 150 Asian and Oceanian comparative endocrinologists attended in the congress. They looked very busy in either discussing their recent progress or looking for symposium talks and posters that they were interested in. Many AOSCE members, including J.M.P. Joss, S. Ishii, S. Kikuyama, J.Y.L. Yu, and H.S. Choi actively contributed as speakers or chairpersons. Lastly, Dr. Howard A. Bern gave a closing speech in which he mentioned the history of ICCE and old ICCE members who greatly contributed to improvement of comparative endocrinology field. After the congress participants and their accompanying persons had a full-day excursion to Pompei. One thing that should be mentioned is that participants were very pleased to taste variety of typical Italian foods and plenty of Italian wines. Overall, participants could spend quite pleasant time and were deeply impressed by warm hospitality of symposium organizers.

Research Network

Japan (Dr. Susumu Ishii): Conservation Biology in Japan (Professor Susumu Ishii)

This is too big topic to summarize for me. I can say something only for birds. Captive breeding of the White Stork (Ciconia ciconia) and the Crested Ibises (Nipponia nippon) have been successful, although native individuals are completely or almost in extinct and introduced birds were used for breeding. I have been engaged in the captive breeding of the latter species. A pair was gifted from Chinese Government to Japan the year before the last and they laid eggs and only one hatched. It was a male. The same pair laid eggs also last year and we got a male and female from them. This year the same pair laid several eggs and also the male which hatched the year before the last was mated with a female that was also gifted by the Chinese Government. This pair also laid several eggs this year and we have now 11 chicks. In total we have now 17 birds of 4 adults, two young and 11 chicks originally from China and an aged female of Japanese origin. We have developed genetic methods for sex identification and analysis of genetic relation of individual birds by using embryonic tissue remained in the egg shell. We are now collaborating with scientists in Zoological Institute, Academy of Science, Beijing, China for these studies. In connection with this ibis project, we have developed a gonadotropin administration method for inducing ovulation and ovisposition in female birds with completely regressed ovaries. In this project, we are also collaborating with Dr. John Cockrem of Massey University, New Zealand who is planning to apply this method to kakapo. We both have successfully applied fecal sex steroid analysis method for non-invasive estimation of gonadal and adreno-cortical endocrine activities.

In Japan, a government supported project for breeding of a feral population of the Short-Tailed Albatross (Diomedea albatrus) is also successfully proceeding. At the same time, plans to produce recombinant gonadotropins for the crested ibis and also for tuatara (Sphenodon punctatus), the only extant species of dinosaurs, have been started.
Korea (Dr. H.B. Kwon): Research progress in comparative endocrinology in Korea

As there are only a few comparative endocrinologists in Korea, I would like to introduce some recent progress in our works done in Hormone Research Center, Chonnam National University. Recently we cloned and characterized three different type of gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) receptor in the bullfrog. All the receptors were biologically functional and one was for hypothalamic GnRH (mGnRH) and the others were for brain GnRHs such as chicken GnRH-II and salmon GnRH. Interestingly, these receptors appear to use different signal transduction pathway in different cell lines. By making chimeric receptors from different bullfrog receptors and/or mammalian GnRH receptors, we could identify a certain domain in the GnRH receptor which is essential to determine the signal transduction way. We also cloned the three receptors from R. dybowskii and R. ridibunda and comparative studies with mammalian and amphibian receptors are undergoing. Eventually, these studies will provide valuable information to understand the action mechanism of various GnRHs in vertebrates including mammals. In collaboration with Dr. H. Vaudry in France, we are also expanding our research area for identifying and characterizing various neuropeptides in frog brains.

□ Calendar of Meetings


► International Symposium on Amphibian and Reptilian Endocrinology: will be held on the second week (tentative) of November, 2003 in Cheju Island in Korea. Organizing committee members of the symposium are H. Vaudry in France, S. Kikuyama in Japan, F.L. Moore in U.S.A., H.B. Kwon in Korea, J.Y. Yu in Taiwan, F. Gracia-Andarrro in Spain, A.M. Polzonetti-Magni and M. Uva Bianca in Italy. The symposium will cover all aspects of amphibian and reptilian endocrinology at cellular, molecular, and organismic levels.

Cheju island, which is located at the southern part of Korea, is a beautiful and most attractive place in Korea. The island is crowded with honeymoon couples from Korea and with many foreign tourists through the year. All the Asian comparative endocrinologists will be warmly welcomed to the symposium.

The organizing committee (chaired by H.B. Kwon) strongly recommends the participants to bring their graduate students to the meeting. The committee will offer reasonably cheap prices for registration, housing, and accommodations for students and trainees under the support of Hormone Research Center. The first circular for the symposium will be distributed to the participants in summer next year.

□ Link (Web-site)

► AOSCE homepage: http://www.bio.mq.edu.au/aosce/aosce.htm (by Dr. Jean Joss)
► 4th AOSCE Congress, Taipei home page: http://www.sinica.edu.tw/~aosce (by Dr. John Y.L. Yu)
► Photoalbum for 4th AOSCE Congress: http://www.zing.com (password: aosce) (by Dr. Susumu Ishii)