

The Second Conference of The Robert A Good Immunology Society (RAGIS) was held at Harvard Conference, Boston November 16th and 17th 2007. The Conference jointly sponsored by the Jeffrey Modell Foundation and The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID, NIH) was spearheaded by the current President of RAGIS, Dr. Thomas Fleisher, Chief, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland and Dr. Luigi Notarangelo, Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Immunology, Children's Hospital Boston, Harvard Medical School, Boston. Educational grants for the conference were provided by USIDNET, the March of Dimes, Talecris, Schering-Plough Biopharma, CSL Behring and Baxter.

The major theme was based on pioneering studies and discoveries of the late Robert A Good, i.e. primary immunodeficiencies and cellular reconstitution. The invited speakers represented those who are active in the field and the presentations focused on the current status of each of the immunodeficiencies for which bone marrow/stem cell transplantation has been applied including severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), Wiscott Aldrich syndrome (WAS), chronic granulomatous disease (CGD) and DiGeorge syndrome. In addition, panel discussions were scheduled that involved specific questions posed by the chairs of the conference. These proved to be very stimulating and included the pros and cons of relative to therapy involving bone marrow/stem cell transplantation.

The speakers included Drs. Fred Alt, Raif Geha, Luigi Notarangelo and Steffen Massberg from Harvard Medical School and Fabio Candotti, Thomas Fleisher, Steven Holland, Harry Malech from the National Institutes of Health. Other distinguished speakers were Morton Cowan, Jennifer Puck and Karen Gaensler from the University of California San Francisco; Richard Gatti and E Richard Stiehm from UCLA; Robertson Parkman and Donald Kohn from USC; Hans Ochs, and David Rawlings from the University of Washington; Rebecca Buckley and Louise Markert from Duke; Richard O'Reilly from Memorial Sloan Kettering; Richard Hong from the University of Vermont; Mary Ellen Conley from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Max Cooper from University of Alabama, Birmingham; R. Michael Blaese from the Immune Deficiency Foundation; and John Curnutte from Schering-Plough Biopharma.

Prominent scientists from Europe included Alain Fischer and Isabelle Andre-Schmutz, from Hopital Necker Enfants-Malades in Paris Wilhelm Friedrich from University of Ulm, Germany and Chaim Roifman from The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto were also invited participants and the meeting program can be viewed in the www.RobertAGoodArchives.com.

Over 250 attendees attended including medical students, residents and young faculty as well as RAGIS member including those who had traveled from Japan, Turkey, Sweden, Canada and Germany. A highlight of the conference was submission of abstracts by students and young faculty. Review of these by a scientific review committee selected six for oral presentation and the remaining for poster presentation. A number of these presenters were supported oral travel grants funded by the USIDNET

The first day of the conference was followed by the ribbon cutting of the Jeffrey Modell Immunology Center at Harvard Medical School. The Robert A Good Library is housed within this Center, as well as the Fred Rosen lecture room and the Omenn student conference room. All of the RAGIS participants and attendees moved to this architecturally magnificent building which was opened with meeting attendees and members of Harvard Medical School in attendance. This was followed by a dinner celebration hosed by Fred and Vicki Modell at the Harvard Club.

The executive committee and all of the members of RAGIS take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year. An announcement regarding the next RAGIS meeting is forthcoming on the website.