Updates—MRS 2008

Venue:    Fairmont Hotel
          Vancouver, British Columbia
Dates:    August 3-7, 2008
Co-host:  AACR

- **ABSTRACTS** due May 5, 2008 (submissions will be online at the
  AACR website. Details will be provided in due course)
- Abstracts published in *Clinical and Experimental Metastasis*
- **CME Credit** - We are working with AACR staff to provide CME
  credit.
- **Scholar-in-training travel awards** - Pre- and post-doctoral
  candidates for scholar-in-training travel awards will need letters
  of recommendation. This is new; so, plan accordingly. The
  abstract submission dates have not yet been set, but the people
  you want to write letters will appreciate something besides a last
  minute request.
- If you personally know someone or a company who would consider
  sponsoring the MRS meeting (i.e., travel awards, speaker travel
  cost defrayment, a coffee break, etc.), please let us know the
  names and contact information. The more sponsorship we can
  raise, the lower the out-of-pocket expenses to attendees.
- **Alaska cruise:** We’re still working on it. A travel agency is
  attempting to coordinate a 7 day cruise beginning the day after
  the MRS conference. We are currently negotiating. Based upon
  the 60+ people who indicated interest, we are hopeful that
  discounts will be significant.
- US citizens will need a valid passport to enter Canada and return
  to the USA. Apply early.

How can you help?

*Clinical and Experimental Metastasis* will be looking for cover art
based primarily upon images in the published articles. If you have
images suitable for publication on the journal cover, please indicate
this in the cover letter.

**Artwork for website:** Several of you have commented that you’d like
to spruce up the website. If you have images, animations, etc. that would
be suitable for the website, please send them to DanWelch@uab.edu.

October Newsletter Editor:
Sue Eccles.
Contributions due October 15th

**TECHNICAL NOTES:** We have had many requests for technical notes or movies on
the website. We are trying to modify the website to accommodate your wishes. In the meantime, if you have a
movie or powerpoint that demonstrates a particular metastasis-
related method, please let Dan W. know.

Paget-Ewing Award Nominations

It is time to submit nominations for the
prestigious MRS Paget-Ewing Award. The
Paget-Ewing Award is named after Sir
Stephen Paget and Dr. James Ewing,
pioneers in metastasis research in the late
19th and early 20th centuries who
proposed the two major theories to explain
organ selectivity of metastasis. The
Paget-Ewing Award is the highest honor
bestowed by the Metastasis Research
Society and honors a person’s scientific
Sir Stephen Paget
excellence and substantial contributions to
the understanding and/or control of cancer metastasis. The award is
meant to honor a track record of contributions, not something
trendy.

The awardee will receive a cash prize and present a special lecture
at the MRS meeting in Vancouver, Canada, Aug 3-7, 2008. Previous
awardees are listed below. Send your nominations to Dan Welch at
danwelch@uab.edu with a letter describing the scientific
achievements of the nominee.

1990    Irving Zeidman
1992    Gabriel Gasic
1994    Everett Sugerbaker
1998    Garth Nicolson
2000    Isaiah Fidler
2002    Lance Liotta
2004    Avraham Raz
2006    Lynn Matrisian
2008    ??

Kudos!!!!

If you have a JPG picture of yourself
to accompany a story, please send it to
danwelch@uab.edu (Please label it with
your first and last name, e.g.,
Your_Name.jpg).
Who's Publishing Now?

Do you have a paper recently published or, preferably, one in press? Send the authors, title and anticipated publication date as soon as possible.


Chaffer CL, Dopheide B, Savagner P, Thompson EW, Williams ED. Aberrant fibroblast growth factor receptor signaling in bladder and other cancers. Differentiation. 2007 Aug 14; [Epub ahead of print]


Reminders

- Make sure you send M. Bar-Eli your update e-mail address so that communications are uninterrupted. Thanks.
- Don't forget to add danwelch@uab.edu and mbareli@mdanderson.org to your address books or anti-spam filters so that you are assured to receive MRS mailings. By default, we send e-mails to multiple recipients which often triggers anti-spam filters. In order to get every message, make sure that our notes are not improperly shuffled.

CONTEST

Write a funny caption for the figure to the right. Send your entry to Dan W. They'll be published in next month’s newsletter.

Entertaining Images

Do you have an image from your work that demonstrates the lighter side of science? Send a copy and we’ll include it in a future newsletter.

“Evil tumour-fish rises from the depths of a bone metastatic lesion to attack areas of bone already being degraded by osteoclasts.”
Sounding board

MRS members wanted a place where they could exchange information and discuss concepts important to them. There is insufficient space in the newsletter to do everything and a web blog is not yet available. But we will do our best. Ground rules: Comments or questions must be pithy (max 250 words); rants are not allowed; rebuttals and comments cannot be personal attacks.

Publish or Perish: Are in vivo biologists at a disadvantage?

22 August 2007: (Robin Anderson)
Our experiments, using a spontaneous metastasis model take about 10 weeks from ordering the mice to completing the analysis of metastatic burden. Then, given the inevitable biological noise in metastasis - the stochastic nature of the process - large numbers of mice are needed and usually one or two repeat experiments. It is therefore very hard to have the equivalent publication rate of someone using bacteria or yeast or tissue culture systems. I do not think that this point is adequately recognised by those outside the field. How do we educate others to these facts of life for metastasis researchers?

10 September 2007: (Lynn Matrisian)
I have seen promotions go through from investigators in the c. elegans field who have relatively few publications compared to the norm. This was made possible by strong letters from very well-recognized investigators in the field that made a point of saying it was the "culture" of the c. elegans field to publish very thorough, complete bodies of work and this meant that successful investigators in the field would have fewer publications than those in another field. Perhaps MRS members can keep the balance between the relevance that mouse studies bring to a study, and the constraints that go with it, in mind when they write letters of recommendation for our colleagues.

10 September 2007: (Dan Welch)
Robin, your last line and Lynn’s comment point to the same solution - educating others. Just as we need to be reminded to address the relevance of in vivo studies for letters of recommendation, we need to speak up when grant reviewers make statements about 'excessive' budgets when animal models are involved or criticize cell lines and models. I was just criticized for using intracardiac injection to study bone metastasis. The argument was that the mouse heart was too thin not to be damaged by an injection. The editor comforted me that reference to other publications would suffice, but if such a comment had been made at study section, the grant could have been killed by an irresponsible comment.

Technical Corner

How to interpret zymogram data for matrix metalloproteinase activity.
(submitted by Lynn Matrisian)

There seems to be a widespread mis-perception that if a band corresponding to MMP2 or MMP9 shows up by zymography, it can be concluded that the enzyme was active in the sample being tested. I’d like to point out that that the experimental conditions allow the enzyme, in either its latent or active form, to degrade the gelatin (or other substrate) in the gel, producing the characteristic cleared bands. However, in the original sample neither the higher molecular weight latent form (with the pro-peptide attached), nor the active form non-covalently bound by an endogenous inhibitor (a TIMP or a-2-M) would have been "active" and able to degrade substrate. Think of the zymogram as giving you information similar to that on a western blot - you can detect latent and processed forms of the enzyme as determined by their size - but you can’t conclude anything about their activity. Also keep in mind that molecular markers are not 100% reliable here since the disulfide bonds are not disrupted in the zymography sample, and that pre-pro- forms of the enzyme can be detected from tissues or intact cells but are not seen in conditioned medium samples.

Share your expertise
(limit your suggestions/comments to 250 words. If you have TIF files to illustrate a point, those are welcome!)
Upcoming meetings and announcements:

The 2007 Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition Meeting
10-12 September, 2007
Larisha Palace, Cracow, Poland
temptia@mtci.com.au (Secretariat, TEMTIA)

Vascular Targeted Therapies in Oncology
ESH - STROMA Consortium International Conference:
October 4-6, 2007 - Mandelieu, France
http://www.esh.org/agenda07.htm

AACR special Meeting: Advances in Breast Cancer Research: Genetics, Biology, and Clinical Applications
October 17 - 20, 2007
San Diego, CA

5th General Meeting of the International Proteolysis Society (IPS2007)
Conference and Cultural Center of the University of Patras
20-24 October 2007
Patras, Greece
http://www.ips2007patras.gr/

Skeletal Complications of Malignancy
Sheraton Society Hill
25-27 October 2007

4th International Conference on Thrombosis and Hemostasis Issues in Cancer
October 26-28, 2007
Bergamo, Italy,
www.bergamocconference.com

7th Pan Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium
October 28 - November 1, 2007
Cairns, Australia
www.connectivetissue2007.org

International Workshop on Cancer Stem Cells
December 1-3, 2007
IFOM-IEO Campus, Milan, Italy
http://www.semm.it/workshop/stemcells07/

MetaBre/BRECOSM Breast Cancer and Metastasis Conference will take place at n. 7, Rome, Italy.
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Rome Italy
December 5-7
www.metabre.org

Congress of the International Society for Cellular Oncology: ISCO 2008
March 5-8, 2008
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
www.isco2008.org

AACR Annual Meeting
April 12-16, 2008
San Diego, California
http://www.aacr.org/home/scientists/meetings--workshops/annual-meeting-2008.aspx

20th Biennial Meeting of EACR
5-8 July 2008
Lyon, France
http://www.fecs.be/emp.asp?pageId=1326&Type=P