



**i-SLB** is an official publication of the Society for Leukocyte Biology

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

My supporting cast at FASEB and I feel very pleased about the positive feedback that we received from all of you through the 2011 membership survey. **THANK YOU!** We genuinely appreciate your feedback because it helps us improve and release a better quality issue of i-SLB. We are very pleased to know that 91% (103/114) of the SLB members that completed the survey found the content of the newsletter useful. SLB members provided good suggestions, such as adding a "hot topic article section", a "historical section about leukocytes", update on grant support, and more. We are already thinking of ways to implement them for next year.

Several features in this issue of i-SLB merit your attention. Our current president, Liz Kovacs, comments on "*Street Smarts of Science for Students*", a new session that is an initiative of the Trainee Task Force and will be inaugurated at the 2012 annual meeting. Whether or not you attended the 2011 meeting in Kansas City, don't miss reading Pieter's and Doug's post-meeting updates! Also take some time to read the SLB Committee Corner. At the 2011 annual meeting in Kansas City, two new initiatives, the "Grant Writing Workshop" organized by the Professional and Development Committee and the Open Forum: "*Women and Diversity in the Scientific Community*" organized by Women and Diversity Committee, were a great success. Don't miss reading the comments about both of these events by the organizers. Additionally, pay attention to the new award category "**W&D Best Paper Award**" an initiative proposed by the Women and Diversity Committee. You will be able to apply for it in 2012! Don't miss the interview with **Domenico Mavilio** whose research article entitled "*Pathologic natural killer cell subset redistribution in HIV-1 infection: new insights in pathophysiology and clinical outcomes*" was featured on the cover of JLB in the December 2010 issue. Sit comfortably, and start enjoying a great issue of i-SLB!



Silvia M. Uriarte, iSLB Editor

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



The Society is very devoted to trainees at all levels as they are 1) the products of our teaching and 2) the next generation of scientist. In this first session entitled the "Street Smarts of Science," Dr. Elizabeth J. Kovacs, and a handful of senior faculty, will impart their knowledge of how to survive in academia in a session designed around the needs of graduate students. At the

inaugural exploratory meeting of the Trainee Task Force, at the 2011 SLB meeting in Kansas City, it was determined that here are areas where the most junior members of the Society, namely those who are currently enrolled in graduate school, medical school, and combined degree programs (such as MD/PhD programs), may need help navigating the waters.

There is no better place to do that than Hawaii!!

This session will be held on the first morning of the 2012 meeting and registration will be limited. Stay tune for updates and information about this new session in next year issues of i-SLB. The following are some of the preliminary topics:

- How to get the most out of a scientific meeting or conference "etiquette"
- Finding mentors
- Networking with peers and others
- NIH 101
- How to stalk faculty
- Self "marketing" and how to find jobs
- "The Elevator Talk" or what to do (and not to do) if you are in the elevator for 3 minutes with a Department Chairperson, Dean, or person who might have a reagent that you want for your experiments

Liz Kovacs, President SLB

## INFECTION, INFLAMMATION AND IMMUNITY — KANSAS CITY 2011 IN RETROSPECT

Looking back at our latest annual meeting in Kansas City leaves us with a satisfied feeling. As scientific chairs, our prime intentions were to put together a meeting that would engage the broad scientific interests of the society membership and be of interest to non-members doing research in infection, inflammation, and immunity. On top of that, we hoped to bring new perspectives outside the current mainstream, but which might be of interest to a broader audience. Whether we succeeded in these goals is for others to decide. Nonetheless, we were encouraged by the many positive responses we received on the program, the site and the meeting organization.

We chose to add the specific flavor of neuroinflammation to the meeting. In this respect we are very grateful to our colleagues of the *Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society (PNIRS)* who organized a well-attended satellite symposium. Our keynote speaker, **Prof. Hugh Perry**, is a member of both SLB and PNIRS and wonderfully illustrated the intricacies and importance of neuro-immune interactivity. Also the collaboration with the *Inflammation Research Association* was very successful and worthy for continuation. A hearty thanks to both societies for their contributions and fruitful collaboration! We were very pleased with the lively discussions in the plenary and concurrent sessions which were elicited by very cogent and sometimes provocative presentations. Thanks to the speakers who generally stuck to their allotted time, and to the audience for being charitable to those who did not. The poster sessions also saw challenging discussions and a great arena where students and post-docs could present themselves and their work. The meeting also hosted popular new events including a grant writing workshop and open forum on Women and Diversity Issues in Science.

Even though Kansas City might not match Hawaii, the site of the 2012 SLB meeting, as a tourist destination, there was no fear of sharks and many participants were pleasantly surprised by the city. In addition to exceptional barbeque, Kansas City's history made it a particularly fitting sight for a meeting with the themes of "**Infection, Inflammation and Immunity**". For example, according to author John M. Barry in his acclaimed book "The Great Influenza", pandemic influenza of 1918 was first identified in Haskell County, Kansas then passed through the historic Kansas City Union Station (adjacent to the meeting hotel) en route to the rest of the world. Also, Dwight D. Eisenhower, a giant of American and world politics in the 20th century, was born near Kansas City in Abilene, Kansas. His presidency was notable in part for his acute myocardial infarction in 1955, the underlying science of which includes key roles for monocytes, lipids, and inflammation in atherosclerosis comprised major topics of the 2011 SLB meeting.

We thank all the participants, speakers, exhibitors and technical staff for making this meeting to such a great event. It cannot be mentioned enough how wonderful it was to work with the executive director, **Jennifer Holland**, and with **SLB Council** in putting together this meeting. We look forward to seeing you all again at SLB 2012 in Hawaii.

*Doug Drevets and Pieter Leenen, SLB 2011 Meeting Co-Chairs*

## AWARDS IN KANSAS CITY



The first afternoon of the meeting treated attendees to a double feature of outstanding presentations by the SLB's award winners, starting first with the Presidential Awards and followed by the Society's named awards. The competition among finalists

for the **Presidential Awards** was intense, as each candidate shared the results of their ongoing studies in excellent fashion. After considerable deliberation and debate, the Awards committee agreed on a final ranking of the finalists. In the Student Category, first place was awarded to **Ana Cristina Dragomir** (Rutgers University), second to **Jennifer Granick** (University of California at Davis), and third to **Catherine Ong** (Imperial College London). The quality was equally superb among the finalists in the Junior Faculty/Post-doc category, where **Suraj Patel** (Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital) was first, **Veit Stoecklein** (BWH

Harvard Medical School) second, and **Marie Benoit** (University of California at Davis) third.

The second component of the awards presentation sustained the tone of excellent style and content that began the afternoon. **Dawn ME Bowdish** (McMaster University), the **G. Jeanette Thorbecke** Award winner, shared some of her ongoing studies on how age-associated changes in the functions of monocytes and macrophages contribute to the predisposition of elderly individuals to infection. Next, the **Dolph O. Adams** award winner **Blossom Damania** (UNC-Chapel Hill, Lineberger Cancer Center) discussed her recent discovery that a viral NLR homolog from Kaposi's sarcoma associated herpesvirus inhibits inflammasome activation. The awards session concluded with **David Hume** [the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies] delivering a provocative and thoughtful **Bonazinga Award** Lecture, entitled "Macrophages as a System". Following this informative and inspiring session, attendees celebrated

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**AWARDS (CONTINUED)**

the start of the 2011 annual meeting with dinner and drinks at the opening reception.

I thank the members of the Awards Committee (Christian Bogdan, Suzie Bohlon, Bob Stout, and Jill Suttles) for their careful and thoughtful evaluation of all the candidates and selection of the finalists who

presented their work at the meeting. In addition, I thank Lee-Ann Allen and Mary Dinauer for substituting for Bob Stout and Christian Bogdan, both unable to attend the meeting, and assisting the Awards Committee in evaluating the presentations at the annual meeting.

*Bill Nauseef, Awards Committee Chair*

**SHORT INTERVIEW WITH AN SLB MEMBER**

Dr. Mavilio's article entitled "*Pathologic natural killer cell subset redistribution in HIV-1 infection: new insights in pathophysiology and clinical outcomes*" was selected as a Journal of Leukocyte Biology Cover in the December 2010 issue. Dr. Mavilio is currently a Principal/Tenured Investigator and the Head of the Unit of Clinical and Experimental Immunology at the Instituto Clinico Humanitas, Milan, Italy. His research interest is related to the role of Natural Killer cells in HIV-infection and in the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases.

**What motivated you to start working in your current scientific field?** When I first started my medical studies, I was mainly interested in surgery because I was convinced that the best way to help people to recover from diseases was to have a straight therapeutic approach to the problem by eradicating the tumor rather than fixing bone fractures and so on. During the course of my professional and scientific career I have sure changed my naïve vision of medicine and, although I learned to fully appreciate the importance and the fundamental roles of surgical procedures in the cure of human diseases, I developed a growing interest in the physiopathology of human diseases. I realized that without a correct understanding of a pathogenic mechanism there is no chance of treating any disorders (either medical or surgical). This was clear for historical pathologies such as cancer, autoimmune diseases and many other disorders without a definitive cure and it became even more evident at the emergence of HIV-1 pandemics. Another milestone that influenced my doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships was the fact that in the last two decades the field of basic and translational immunology enormously advanced. Indeed, the several seminal discoveries made in that time-frame highlighted the importance of acute and chronic inflammation in human physiopathology and made the scientific community aware of the fact that innate and adaptive immunity play a central role not only in the pathogenesis of classic immune-mediated disorders (i.e. vasculitis, connectivitis, auto-immune diseases), but also in the pathogenesis of several other diseases not directly linked (at least until then) to immune responses (i.e. cardiovascular diseases, solid tumors, bowel disorders and many more). As a medical student and resident constantly looking on the text books for the explanations of the pathogenic mechanisms of human disorders, approaching this growing research field of translational immunology was the logical step forward. Therefore, as soon as I completed my residency program in internal medicine/lung diseases, I decide to move to USA and undertake a PhD program in clinical and experimental immunology and...here I am.

**Do you think that being an SLB member had a positive impact in your scientific career? If yes, can you tell us how?** It certainly did. Other than strongly motivated, a scientist needs to constantly interact with the rest of the scientific community. In this context, the dissemination of the experimental results and the participation at international workshops/symposia/meetings is of great importance as well as being part of a scientific society that enforce such scientific exchanges. In this regard, in 2010 I had the pleasure to organize in my own country, Italy, my first meeting of translational immunology. SLB fully supported this initiative and highly contributed to the success of the meeting by posting it on its web site and by inviting me to write about the outcome of the meeting in i-SLB. Moreover, the Journal of Leukocyte Biology selected a cluster of presentations as invited reviews/articles to publish in a special session of the journal issue of October 2011. This kind of support given by a scientific society is of extreme importance to promote exchange and dissemination of science and to implement the growth of young scientists with a career ahead of them.

**What aspect of your scientific job gives you the most satisfaction?** One of the greatest opportunities for  
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**COMING TO THE 2012 MEETING?  
COME A LITTLE EARLY AND JOIN THE...**

**Alcohol and Immunology:  
Receptors and Signal Transduction Satellite Symposium**

chaired by Elizabeth J. Kovacs  
Saturday, October 27, 2012 1-5pm  
Grand Wailea, Maui, Hawaii.

**SHORT INTERVIEW WITH AN SLB MEMBER (CONTINUED)**

a human being is to have the possibility to work in a job that you love the most and feel passionate about. In this regard I feel lucky because I love the work that I do and what I enjoy a lot about my job is that it allows me to always look for something new. Although our work can be frustrating sometimes, it is never a routine job and allows us to interact with scientists and colleagues all over the world, to meet new cultures and to travel a lot. Nothing is easy of course, but it is not that common to have the possibility to experience so many amazing aspects in a single job.

**In your opinion, what innovative ideas from your article drove the editor's attention to select it as a JLB cover?** The JLB cover associated to my review article, basically resemble my professional career in the field of innate immunity and HIV-1 pathogenesis. Indeed, the figure shown in JLB cover summarized (until that moment) almost 8 years of work and 6 manuscripts related to a project started when I moved to National Institutes of Health to start my PhD program on a research field almost unexplored back then in 2002. Our research opened new important insights in the field and several groups have undertaken new projects based on our articles. I perfectly remember that before our first report on PNAS in 2003, 5 papers were available on Pub Med line under the search "Natural Killer (NK) cells and HIV-1". However, if you search for that same topic now you will find 594 related articles. Therefore, in the scientific community my name is often associated to the work depicted in that JLB cover. Indeed, the editor of JLB told me that the cover was chosen after a democratic ballot during an annual JLB meeting and this confirmed my idea of being selected on the basis of our innovative research that advanced our knowledge of NK cell pathophysiology.

**What is your advice for a student who wants to shape her or his future with a career in science?** Be motivated, consistent and never give up in a job that stimulates every day your creativity skills and advance the biomedical science for the sake of humanity. Other than our own motivations, my advice for succeeding as a scientist is to have the best mentorship possible and choose a research field that is of your interest. These are two important anchors that help to get over the so-called "nothing is working" frustration periods that every scientist experiences in his/her professional life.

*Interview by Silvia M. Uriarte, i-SLB Editor*

**NEW WEBSITE FEATURE!**

Listen to highlights from the 2011 meeting online  
and see the associated presentation slides!  
New, for current SLB members, have access to  
relive the keynote, award talks etc [HERE](#).

## { SLB COMMITTEE CORNER }

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Recognizing the tight funding climate for biomedical research and the need of our junior colleagues to be well prepared to apply for grants in this complex and competitive environment, the Professional Development Committee of the Society for

Leukocyte Biology (SLB) held a **Grant Writing Workshop** at the 2011 SLB meeting in Kansas City, MO. The workshop was publicized in advance of the meeting using the SLB web site and in the i-SLB newsletter, and registration quickly reached capacity. Among the 45 attendees were undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and assistant professors. The workshop format had two components, a didactic introductory lecture covering basic aspects of the NIH grant system prepared and presented by the Workshop organizer, Dr. Julián G. Cambroneró, from Wright State University in Dayton, OH. Dr. Cambroneró's presentation included lots of "advice for young investigators" on how to prepare their first grant proposal and grant tips. The introductory lecture was followed by small group discussions in which senior scientists with a strong record of NIH funding and experience mentoring individuals in their own laboratories and junior faculty served as discussion leaders at tables with 6-8 attendees. The roundtable leaders or "facilitators" were: Julián Gomez-Cambroneró, Lee-Ann H. Allen, Martha K. Cathcart, Louis Justment, Elizabeth J. Kovacs, Kenneth R. McLeish and William M. Nauseef.

Feedback via a post-workshop survey was very positive overall. There was strong support for the format and content, which met the varied needs of the diverse participants. In the small groups, attendees were enthusiastic, engaged, and asked thoughtful questions. Since the individual facilitators used the participants' questions to initiate and direct discussion, the specific contents varied among the groups. Some groups focused primarily on the different types of NIH grants available, the organizational structure of the NIH staff, and the review process, whereas others found discussion of the process of grant writing most interesting. One theme recognized by many discussion leaders was the need by the participants for a better understanding of the NIH and its review process. Feedback from attendees at this year's workshop was so positive that there are plans to repeat this workshop in Hawaii. Further, the main contents of the Kansas Workshop will be published in a special commentary in a future issue of Nature Immunology and Dr. Julian G. Cambroneró's presentation will be posted at the SLB site. In summary, the inaugural Grant Writing Workshop was a great success in meeting many of the needs of our more junior members in the SLB as they embark on their scientific careers. We will maintain you informed on the updates regarding the future workshop at 2012 SLB meeting!

*Julián Gomez Cambroneró,  
Professional Development Committee Chair*

### WOMEN AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

At the 43rd Annual SLB meeting in Kansas City the Women and Diversity Committee (W&D) had their first open forum entitled: "Women and diversity issues in the scientific community". **Dr. Sharon Wahl**, (Chief of Oral Infection and Immunity Branch at NIH/NIDCR) was the keynote speaker. Several topics were covered by Dr. Wahl including some of the experiences that she had to struggle with as she was growing in her scientific career at the NIH, as well as some interesting anecdotes and advice for women and minorities in the scientific field. Dr. Wahl's outstanding presentation was followed by recognition of FASEB MARC Award winners to **Ashley Triplett** (University of Louisville), **Katherine Haynes** (North Carolina Central University), and **Manuel Galvan** (Indiana University). Following the award recognition presentation, Drs. Sharon Wahl, Martha Cathcart, Elizabeth Kovacs, and Jill Suttles, began the open forum covering different topics such as how to manage family and a scientific career, obstacles at work place, and the

challenge that women and minorities face when they try to apply for funding. There was active participation from the audience and excellent suggestions were made by the panelists. Forty two SLB members registered for the session and at least 39 were in attendance. At the end of the open discussion, a survey was conducted to obtain some feedback from the participants regarding the forum format and suggestions for future topics that would be of interest to SLB members. The majority of the participants (32/34 respondents) expressed that the open panel discussion format was valuable to them, and that the topic of the keynote speaker was of interest to them. Some of the future topics suggested by the participants were: to include minority leadership, minority mentoring, "Women don't ask" (i.e., promotions, negotiations), balance between family and work. We are very happy and motivated by the positive feedback that we received from the participants. We want to share with you some of the comments that we received: "It

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## { SLB COMMITTEE CORNER }

### WOMEN AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

was a wonderful experience for me”, “this forum should be a feature of every SLB meeting”, “wonderful meeting, very helpful”, “wonderful discussion”, “outstanding speaker”, “the panel was well organized and informative”, and many more. For the 2012 annual meeting we are starting to organize a similar format for the open forum which will also include a keynote speaker; so stay tuned for more upcoming news from our committee in future iSLB issues.

The W&D committee keeps thinking of ways to reward our talented and outstanding SLB community. For that purpose the committee created a new award the “**W&D Best Paper Award**”. All SLB members that belong to “Women and diversity” category and have published in the last 5 years as first-author, corresponding-

author or senior-author are invited to apply for this award. We will evaluate the relevance/ importance of the publication based on the amount of citations that it received per year. The winner will be invited to give a short presentation about her/his research at the Awards session at the Annual 2012 SLB Conference. Additionally, the awardee will be invited to participate in the panel discussion during W&D Forum session and will be featured on W&D web page. The application for the “W&D Best Paper Award” will be open together with the abstract submission system. We are looking forward to receive many excellent applications!

*Vijaya Iragavarapu-Charyulu, Rachel Caspi,  
and Julia Kzhyshkowska, W&D Committee*

### WELCOME NEW SLB COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Chris Karp, *President Elect*  
Hongwei Gao, *Secretary*  
Mark Quinn (Nominating Committee Liaison) and Vishwa Deep Dixit (Publication Committee Liaison), *Councilors*  
Claire Doerschuk, *Nominating Committee*  
Al Ayala, *Web Committee Liaison*  
Christian Bogdan, *Membership Committee Liaison*

### WELCOME NEW SLB MEMBERS

Anshu Agrawal, *University of California, Irvine*  
Rebecca Allen, *The Ohio State University*  
Kelly Andrews, *Univ. of Tennessee Health Science Center*  
Marie Benoit, *University of California Irvine*  
Zhen Bian  
Charles Brown, *University of Missouri*  
Kelly Carroll, *University of Louisville*  
Suzanne Cassel, *University of Iowa*  
Ceren Ciraci  
Elizabeth Clarke, *University of California Irvine*  
Tine Demoor, *University of Michigan*  
Kimberly Dyer, *Laboratory of Allergic Diseases, NIAID NIH*  
Yi Feng, *University of Bristol*  
Jeffrey Galley, *The Ohio State University*  
Jennifer Granick, *University of California Davis*  
Ajay Grover, *Colorado State University*  
Dion Hardiono  
Amy Hufnagle, *The Ohio State University*  
John Janczy  
Ann Janowski  
Stacy Kelley  
Nazir Khan Bhabha, *Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai*  
Seong Hoon Kim, *Yonsei University College of Medicine*

Hyoungh-Pyo Kim  
Kaori Knights, *Kansas State University*  
Michael Koldehoff  
Chunmei Long  
Lucia Lopes, *University of São Paulo*  
Zhiyuan Lu  
Deulle Min  
Bon Hong Min, *Korea University College of Medicine*  
Jane Mooney, *The University of Queensland*  
Tyler Moore, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*  
Toshiya Okahisa, *The University of Tokushima*  
Suraj Patel, *Massachusetts General Hospital*  
Thomas Petro, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*  
Jennifer Plichta, *Loyola University Medical Center*  
Veronica Purvis, *FASEB*  
Rajesh Rajaiah, *University of Maryland Baltimore*  
Diana Rose Ranoa, *University of Illinois*  
Cheryl Rockwell, *University of Kansas Medical Center*  
Barbara Rolfe, *The University of Queensland*  
Patrizia Scapini, *University of Verona*  
Sharvan Sehrawat, *Whitehead Inst. for Biomedical Research*  
Shuhji Seki  
Goo-Young Seo, *Kangwon National University*  
Deepika Sharma, *Michigan State University*  
Nicholas Shubin, *Brown University*  
Kyoung Ju Song, *Yonsei University*  
Veit Stoecklein, *BWH Harvard Medical School*  
Heth Turnquist, *University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*  
David Voehringer  
Jonas Wetterö, *Linköping University*  
Laura Whitmore, *University of Iowa*  
Shruti Wilson  
Ting Zhang, *Temple University*  
Lining Zhu