

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL PORTO PIRGOS CONFERENCE ON
ADVANCES IN NEUROSCIENCE**

Porto Pargos Hotel (www.portopirgos.com),

Parghelia (VV), Calabria, Italy

22-25 September, 2004

Under the Auspices of the

Calabria Region

University of Calabria (www.unical.it)

University of Catanzaro (www.unicz.it)

Italian Society of Pharmacology (SIF)

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Scientific Information

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Secretariat

Mr Nicola Fico, Department of Pharmacobiology, University of Calabria, 87036 Arcavacata di Rende (Cosenza), Italy; Tel. 39 0984 493248, Fax 39 0984 493462, Email: fico@amministrazione.unical.it.

Conference venue

Porto Pirgos Hotel is located at Parghelia (Vibo Valentia), in one of the loveliest spots of the Tirrenian Coast facing the still-erupting Stromboli volcano. The international airport of Lamezia Terme (Catanzaro) is 30 Km from the Hotel. Further travelling information are available on the web at www.portopirgos.com. The cost of full board accommodation for participants will be at a reduced price.

General information

The official language of the conference is English. Sessions for free poster communications to allow the participation of young researchers and PhD students

will also be organized. To this end, abstracts should be submitted for acceptance within 10th July 2004 via e-mail to the secretariat (fico@unical.it) (for security reasons, the subject of the correspondence should be “Advances in Neuroscience”).

Acceptance will be notified to the Authors within the 30th of July, 2004.

Each abstract (Times New Roman 12) should contain a sentence stating the study objective; a brief statement of methods, if pertinent; a summary of the results obtained and a statement of the conclusions. It is not satisfactory to say, “the results will be discussed”. Use a short, specific title. Capitalize initial letters of trade names. Use standard abbreviations for units of measure. Other abbreviations should be spelled out in full at first mention, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Include the source of research support on the bottom line of the abstract. The presenting author assures the merit of the presentation and that all authors listed have had a significant role in the research being reported.

At the conference venue boards for poster presentations will be 70 cm wide and 100 cm high.

Registration fee

Participation to the conference requires the payment of a registration fee of 200,00 Euros to be made available to the Department of Pharmacobiology, University of Calabria, Vi a Pietro Bucci, 87036 Arcavacata di Rende (CS) Italy (Banca CARIME Ag. n° 4, bank account n° 6141, CIN U, ABI 03067, CAB 80884). The fee includes participation to the scientific sessions, coffee breaks and conference kit.

Scientific programme

Wednesday, 22nd September

18.00 Welcome address

18.15 Invited Opening Lectures

Gerry Melino (Italy)

Role of p73 in neuronal death

18.45 Lucio Conti (Italy)

Stem Cells and Neurorepair

Thursday, 23rd September

Morning session

8.30-13.00 EXOCYTOSIS, SYNAPTIC PLASTICITY AND NOCICEPTION

Chairpersons Oliver J. Dolly and

8.30-9.00 Oliver J. Dolly (Ireland)

Botulinum neurotoxins as probes for exocytosis: therapeutic applications

9.00-9.30 Cesare Montecucco (Italy),

Mechanisms of presynaptic inhibition by different protein neurotoxins

9.30-10.00 Michela Matteoli (Italy)

SNAP-25 in subpopulations of hippocampal nerves as possible regulator of network excitability

10.00-10.30 Leonard Smith (USA)

Immunological features of botulinum toxin

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

Chairpersons Giacinto Bagetta and Pierluigi Nicotera

11.00-11.30 Graham Collingridge, (Bristol, UK)

Glutamate receptors and synaptic plasticity in the hippocampus

11.30-12.00 William Willis (Galveston, USA)

Perspectives on pain pathways

12.00-12.30 S. Poole (Herts, UK)

The role of cytokines in inflammatory hyperalgesia

12.30-13.00 Roger Aoki (Irvine)

Botulinum toxin: mechanism in pain relief

Evening session

18.00-19.30 Presentation of poster communications

Friday, 24th September

8.30-13.00 NEURODEGENERATION and NEUROPROTECTION

Chairpersons L Annunziato (Naples) and

8.30-9.00 Daniele Piomelli (USA)

The endocannabinoid system: a new target for analgesic and anxiolytic drugs

9.00-9.30 J Trimmer (USA)

Neuronal voltage-gated ion channels and cellular plasticity

9.30-10.00 Paolo Calabresi (Rome, Italy)

Pathological forms of synaptic plasticity in the striatum

10.00-10.30 Pierluigi Nicotera (Leicester, UK)

Mechanisms of neuronal death in excitotoxicity and brain ischemia

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

Chairpersons to be selected

11.00-11.30 A.J. Turner (UK)

Dynamic aspects of amyloid metabolism

11.30-12.00 Gennaro Schettini (Genoa, Italy)

Can adapter proteins and APP/CTF interaction determine the fate of neurons and astrocytes in Alzheimer disease brain?

12.00-12.30 N. Bazan (USA)

Signalling and neuroprotective strategies in brain ischemia

12.30-13.00 Moskowitz M (USA)

Neuroprotection in brain ischemia

Evening session

18.00-19.30 Presentation of poster communications

Saturday, September 25th

Closing remarks and Departure

Social programme

Wednesday, 22nd September

19.00 Welcome cocktail

Thursday, 23rd September

22.00 Jazz music concert

Friday, 24th September

22.00 Folk music concert