

British Andrology Society

The logo features a blue oval shape on the left, from which a white, brush-stroke-like line curves upwards and then downwards to the right, ending under the 'y' of 'Society'.

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A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of BAS who have contributed to this issue of the newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress that we do encourage you to submit articles or to request articles that you feel will be of benefit to our general readership. I will do everything possible to accommodate requests and get them published in the next issue of the newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter.

Regards
N S Prathalingam
nprathalingam@rvc.ac.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

New Members

A warm welcome to all the new members of the BAS!
Dr A Chavez-Badiola, Dr K Coward, Ms J Hartley, Dr S Homa, Mr M Ibrahim, Ms R Macfarquhar, Dr MSB Ralapanawe, Dr T Workneh, Dr Al Zaidi

Please can the BAS committee request that all members update their email address for our records. This can only be done by sending your current email address to Dr Alireza Fazeli (A.Fazeli@sheffield.ac.uk). It is possible that in the future information concerning the BAS might be circulated to members using this medium and we would like to ascertain the number of members with email access at present. Thank you.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow BAS students,

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. I was recently elected as your student and postgraduate representative. I am currently in my 2nd year of my PhD studies at the Royal Veterinary College in London and am studying the effects of varying isoforms of the cortisol metabolising enzyme 11 beta hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase in the porcine testis, reproductive tract and sperm. My main aim is to build up a good base of students who can use the BAS as a good networking point, a place where they can convey their scientific findings and expand their knowledge, and enjoy some sociable gatherings.

If you are a student member of the BAS there is plenty to look forward to this year. However if you are not yet a member there are plenty of reasons to join:

You can purchase a full years student membership of the BAS for a fee of £5 (bargain!). Student members of the BAS are entitled to apply for an award to travel to national and international conferences - so apply today! To qualify for an award you must have been a BAS member for at least 6 months by the date of travel. BAS members can apply for one travel grant every two years and each application can be up to a maximum of £250. As a token of your appreciation all you have to do is make the most out of the conference and oh yes, write a short report on the conference for our newsletter! Deadlines for applications are three times a year in January, April and September. Travel grant application forms can be found on the BAS website.

This leads us on to the next BAS meeting, which will be held in Ware on the 16th-18th November 2007. Attending BAS conferences will allow you to have lots of fun while making those all-important contacts and there will be a chance to listen to some world-class speakers that you will have perhaps not had the chance to meet. You will also have the chance to submit a poster or talk. The deadline for submission of an abstract is 1st October so get cracking - it's a great way to show off your hard earned work and get your face recognised. I also hope to organise a postgradoc lunch, so come along to meet your fellow peers in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you have any suggestions, concerns, questions or you would like to contribute to the BAS newsletter I would love to hear from you. My contact details are: Vicky Sharp, Department of Veterinary Basic Sciences, Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, Royal College Street, London, NW1 0TU or feel free to email: vsharp@rvc.ac.uk
I look forward to meeting you all in Ware!

Vicky Sharp

BAS TRAVEL AWARD REPORT

The 10th International Symposium on Spermatology, 17th-22nd September 2006, Madrid, Spain

From the recent airport security scares, travelling was a worry since I had to send my poster into the hold luggage. Whilst waiting for my luggage in the baggage collection point at Baharajas airport, I met Dr Paris and some other conference delegates anxiously awaiting belongings. After a fiasco of the late arrival of my poster tube, a mild panic there, I met my colleague who was on the flight before in the arrivals lounge. Unable to find the airport transport, we found another delegate and hopped into a taxi.

The meeting was held at the Euroforum in the small quaint town of San Lorenzo de Escorial, approximately one hour from the centre of Madrid, next to the beautiful Palace and Monastery complex. Due to our late arrival unfortunately we missed the first part of the pre-

congress symposium on determinants of male fertility. However the "Thaddeus Mann Lecture" given by Prof. Harry Moore on mechanisms of primordial germ cells, gamete development, technology of embryonic stem cells and embryonic germ cells was a fascinating talk to end the day before the welcome reception, where Dr Eduardo Roldan officially opened the meeting.

For the next 4 days, the scientific program was very enjoyable with very diverse symposia sessions from molecular aspects such as signalling and function, evolutionary biology and conservation to manipulation techniques. The first day's subjects included sessions on DNA, nuclear proteins, signalling and sperm function. From my research, many of the speakers were of whom I have heard previously or have read many papers. I particularly enjoyed the signalling and sperm function session with speakers such as Dr Pablo Visconti, on "Signalling pathways involved in sperm capacitation". The first poster session, with copious amounts of free wine, was presented that evening. The following days were just as stimulating including the new "Spallanzani Lecture" with the first ever speaker as Dr Stanley Leibo lecture entitled "Cryobiology of the spermatozoa: Principles, species differences and individual variations". The closing lectures by Prof. Jennifer Graves amused us all and left us with the prospect of the Y-chromosome to "poof" and disappear one day. Which I guess is not a very good prospect for Spermatologists?

This meeting, of which only occurs every four years, gave me a great experience to listen and meet many esteemed scientists and I look forward to the possibility of attending the next one in Okinawa, Japan in 2010. The meeting concluded with a very nice conference dinner acknowledging the great careers of Prof Hideo Mohri and Prof. Gerhard van der Horst. Nana Satake (PhD student, London)

The 7th Siena Meeting, 'From Genome to Proteome: Back to the Future', September 3-7th 2006, Siena, Italy.

The Siena proteomics meeting is a somewhat understated event. The meeting is barely advertised, and details of its occurrence appear to be largely spread by word of mouth. Yet, the importance of this meeting should not be underestimated. It was, after all, where the term 'proteomics' was first coined in 1994.

The meeting occurs just once every two years. It serves to review recent advancements in the field of proteomic research and direct future developments. This year's meeting was clearly directed at the use of both well established and novel proteomic technologies in biomedical applications.

The opening lecture was given by Professor Laemmli from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. Professor Laemmli was the first to publish a paper employing SDS-PAGE in a scientific study. His paper remains the most cited paper in 'Nature' journal's history. His talk described the use of various proteomic and genomic technologies to comprehensively elucidate the mechanisms involved in the nucleopore-promoter interaction of genes in yeast. Upon reflection on this talk, it became obvious how critical proteomics is becoming to all biological research, and how we will all need to adopt such techniques in order to progress our own particular research fields.

Of particular interest to me was the surprisingly large number of posters detailing investigations of the spermatozoa proteome. It was a pleasure to see the first glimpses of data from projects that aimed to profile the human sperm plasma membrane proteins and proteins involved in human sperm capacitation.

The days were pleasantly divided into two by lunch that was always served *al fresco*, on the top of a hill, under a canvas canopy. This gave shelter from the intense sunshine, and allowed the savouring of four elegant courses washed down with the tastiest of Tuscan wines.

Lunch was followed by dessert and coffee which provided time to enjoy the fresh cool breeze and the stunning view of the ancient city walls, before rejoining the meeting for the second half of the day.

I would like to express my gratefulness to the BAS for the travel award that enabled me to attend this year's Siena meeting.

Stephen Georgiou (Postdoc, Sheffield)

Travel Grant Applications

BAS Travel awards are available to successful applicants for travel to national and international conferences- so apply today.

To qualify for an award, applicants must have been a BAS member for at least one year or a student member for six months. Only one BAS travel grant per applicant will be awarded in a 2 year period and the maximum award value is £250. Successful applicants will be required to write a report on the conference attended for the BAS newsletter.

If you would like to apply for a travel grant, complete the travel grant application form (<http://www.britishandrology.org.uk>) and return it to the BAS treasurer (Sheena Lewis s.e.lewis@qub.ac.uk). Applicants submitting abstracts will be favoured and we request that where possible applicants enclose a copy of the abstract to be presented. Applications will be assessed in January, April and September.

DIARY DATES

2006

197th Society For Endocrinology Meeting

6-7th November 2006

Kensington Town Hall, London

Contact: Shirine Borbor, Society for Endocrinology

Tel: 01454 642210 Fax: 01454 642222

conferences@endocrinology.org

Fourth International Workshop on the Epididymis 2006

December 4 – 7th, 2006

Chatel-Guyon, France

<http://www.agence-mo.com/epididymis4>

2007

CreteLife 2007

International Fertility Treatment Conference for individuals, couples and patients

10-11 February 2007

Geneva, Switzerland

<http://www.createlife.org>

Society for Endocrinology Annual BES Meeting 2007

5 - 8 March, 2007

Birmingham ICC, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1454 642212

Fax: +44 (0)1454 642222

E-mail: shirine.borbor@endocrinology.org

Web: <http://www.endocrinology.org/SFE/conf.htm#26bes>

Wellcome Trust Conference: Genomic Disorders

21-23 March 2007

Wellcome Trust Conference Centre, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK

Contact: Lucy Criddle, Meeting organiser

Telephone: 01223 495000

American Society of Andrology 32nd Annual Conference

18 - 24 April, 2007

Hyatt Regency

New Orleans, Louisiana

Web: <http://www.andrologysociety.com/default.asp>

Fertility 2007

5th joint meeting of the UK Fertility Societies (ACE, BFS and SRF)

15-18 April 2007

University of York

<http://www.srf-reproduction.org/meetings/fertility07.htm>

8th European Congress of Endocrinology

28 April – 2 May 2007

Budapest, Hungary

Contact: Blaguss Ltd Congress Bureau, PO.Box 706, 1365 Budapest

Tel: + 36 1 374 7030 Fax: + 36 1 312 1582

E-mail: benyhe@blaguss-congress.hu

Web: <http://www.endocrinology.org>

IFFS 2007 - 19th World Congress on Fertility and Sterility

30 April – 5 May 2007

Durban, South Africa

Contact: Paul Dalmeyer, IFFS2007 President

E-mail: pdal@iafrica.com

Web: <http://www.iffs-reproduction.org/>

23rd Annual Meeting of the ESHRE

1 - 4 July, 2007

Lyon, France

Tel: +32 (0)2 269 09 69

Fax +32 (0)2 269 56 00

E-mail: info@eshre.com

Web: <http://www.eshre.com/emc.asp?pageld=206>

2008

10th European Congress of Endocrinology

3 - 7 May, 2008

Dresden, Germany

Web: <http://www.euro-endo.org/>

2009

11th European Congress of Endocrinology

25 - 29 April, 2009

Istanbul, Turkey Web: <http://www.euro-endo.org/>