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IPSO newsletter July 2005

The IPSO Oncology course at the EUPSA meeting in Gdańsk, Poland – May 2005

The first IPSO Oncology course was organized as a pre-meeting course for Pediatric Surgical Trainees and junior Pediatric Surgeons at the 6th EUPSA congress in Gdańsk. Thirty five participants followed this interactive course that covered Wilms' tumors, Neuroblastoma, and Rhabdomyosarcoma. Active participation and lively discussions were the hallmarks of this course, which was centered on patients' cases and clinical problems. Participants had prepared themselves through the Distance Learning Course that they had received by mail after registering to the course. In the afternoon, the participants had the opportunity to present posters to the Tumor Board and at the end of the day the Assessment of the Candidates took place by dr. Carachi with MCQ's on basic science, the Distance Learning Course and material discussed during the day. All candidates received their Certificate of successful completion of the Course. A questionnaire was then filled out by all participants. The course received a high rating, and the participants specifically were very enthusiastic about its interactive nature. Meanwhile, the Executive Board of EUPSA has asked IPSO to continue the course for the coming EUPSA meetings, through which the field of Pediatric Surgical Oncology will be covered in two or three year's cycles.



IPSO Faculty at the IPSO Oncology Course in Gdańsk, Poland



In Memoriam Professor Yoshiaki Tsuchida MD, PhD (1936-2005)

Dr. Tsuchida was born on October 25th, 1936, in Osaka, Japan. He entered the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Medicine, in 1955. After his graduation in 1961, and a one-year internship, he joined the Second Department of Surgery at the University of Tokyo. There, he met Prof. Masanobu Ishida, a founder of the Department of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Tokyo, and a Japanese pioneer of Pediatric Surgery, and he decided to make Pediatric Surgery his special field of concentration. After receiving his PhD-degree, he continued his investigations of alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) assays in pediatric solid tumors including teratomas and hepatoblastomas and liver diseases. This work resulted in his publication of striking and important quantitative data relevant to the normal serum levels of AFP in infants, that decline until 10 months after birth. This landmark paper has frequently been cited in the literature and has been of great value at the bedside.

Dr. Tsuchida was appointed an Assistant in Surgery in 1967, and a Lecturer of Pediatric Surgery in 1975 in the University of Tokyo Hospital. There, his research group established a series of transplantable neuroblastoma xenografts in nude mice, which were used to screen candidate clinical anti-cancer reagents. He then moved to the National Children's Hospital in Tokyo in 1985 as a Head of the Department of Surgery. He returned to the University of Tokyo Hospital as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pediatric Surgery in 1991. For a long time he was the leader of the Japanese Study Group for Advanced Neuroblastoma, and became the President to convene the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Pediatric Surgeons in 1995.

One year before his expected retirement from the University, he was invited to become the Director of Gunma Children's Medical Center, Gunma, Japan. He continued his research at the Gunma University School of Medicine, where his enthusiastic passion to research focused to solve clinical problems, stimulated young Pediatric Surgeons to undertake clinical research projects.

Dr. Tsuchida published more than 220 papers in English, along with 151 original articles and 16 book chapters. Amazingly, he presented 118 papers at international meetings all over the world. Together with Drs. Tadashi Sawada and Minoru Sakurai, he organized the 30th Annual meeting of SIOP in Yokohama as President of the Organizing Committee. Also with Dr. Sawada, he established SIOP-Asia, a step forward to internationalism that should never be forgotten.

At his funeral, his wife Mineko said that he was a happy person who devoted himself to his work, regardless of his worsening health condition, despite which he remained actively engaged until his death.

Dr. Yoshiaki Tsuchida died on June 28th, 2005, at the age of 68 after a prolonged illness.

Both worlds of Pediatric Oncology and of Pediatric Surgery have lost an invaluable man. The roles this giant figure played will be impossible to replace.

Michio Kaneko,

Professor of Pediatric Surgery, Head of Surgery

University of Tsukuba, former Secretary General and Treasurer of IPSO

Akira Nakagawara M.D., Ph.D.

Chairman, Advances in Neuroblastoma Research

Director, Chiba Cancer Center Research Institute

PLUTO: the Pediatric Unresectable Liver Tumors Observatory

Professor Jean-Bernard Otte has launched a new initiative. In order to expand the transplant activities for unresectable liver tumors, and learn lessons from these experiences, he has proposed to establish an international database to collect data regarding the international transplant activities and gained experience in these patients.

Objective

Establish a multi-center, international database with prospective registration of pediatric patients (<18 years) transplanted for hepatoblastoma (HB), hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) or epithelioid hemangioendothelioma (EHE) with a remote data entry system, accessible on-line, worldwide and free of charge

Aims

- to fully define the role of primary liver transplantation
- to identify patients at diagnosis who will need a total liver resection and a transplant
- to define the optimal timing of liver transplantation
- to define the potential role of pre-transplant neo-adjuvant and post-transplant adjuvant chemotherapy
- to correlate the staging according to the PRETEXT system with other staging systems like the conventional tumor-node-metastasis system for (adult) liver carcinomas (TNM) and the CCSG/POG staging system
- to correlate the PRETEXT of individual patients at presentation with the PRETEXT at the time of transplantation (after neo-adjuvant chemotherapy or other neo-adjuvant therapy like HACE) and with the anatomic observations made on the resected liver
- to define the amount of post-transplant immunosuppression needed by these children already immunosuppressed at the time of transplantation due to neo-adjuvant chemotherapy
- to quantify the immunosuppressive status at transplantation by measuring the total lymphocyte count
- to study the incidence, on the long term, of the additive nephrotoxicity of Cisplatin and calcineurin inhibitors

Supervising Organizations of PLUTO

SIOPEL study group, IPSO (International Pediatric Surgical Oncology), IPTA (International Pediatric Transplant Association), AIEOP (Italian Association of Haematology Oncology), SPLIT (USA), COG Rare tumor committee, Liver tumor subcommittee (USA), German Cooperative Pediatric Liver Tumor Study
Location of the data base: CINECA, Bologna, Italy

News from the Program Committee

IPSO in Vancouver is going to be a very special meeting. Our Immediate Past President, Bruce Broecker, has been invited to deliver a keynote address to the SIOP membership and has chosen Genitourinary Rhabdomyosarcoma as his topic. This is not only a personal honour for Bruce but is an important step forward for our Society. SIOP has been very supportive of IPSO since our inception and this recognition of our society's contribution to patient care and science is most heartening. There is an excellent joint session with SIOP on Endocrine Tumours that has been organised by Giovanni Cecchetto and an important session on aggressive borderline sarcomas.

However, of paramount importance to IPSO will be the joint session dedicated to one of our founding fathers, Dr Jack Plashkes, whose efforts to get IPSO established are appreciated by all of us. His seminal work on liver tumours has resulted in major advances for our patients through SIOPEL and it is pleasing that SIOP will join us in celebrating Jack's achievements.

The quality of the submitted contributions has been impressive and the objective anonymous scoring by a panel that included medical oncologists as well as surgeons rated these submissions highly. One decision of

the panel is that Case Reports would be considered only for Poster presentation, and this will be carried forward. Not only Case Reports will appear on the Poster Boards of course; the membership will be mindful of the immodest number of dollars that will be donated to the cause of the author of the "best" poster. The winner will be determined by a panel of surgeons during the meeting. There will be a Problem Case session, "chaired" in their inimitable fashion by Drs Dan Aronson and Bruce Broecker. Please bring along solved or unsolved problems as Powerpoint presentations and arrange with Dan for podium time. Lastly of course Vancouver is one of the world's pretty cities and is a wonderful place to meet old friends and make new ones. New members have joined us since our meeting in Oslo and we look forward to establishing lasting relationships with them. See you there!!!

Larry Hadley, Chairman

From the Secretary/Treasurer

Recently, some of you have received a letter of remittance of your 2005 dues, and of probable unpaid dues from (the) previous year(s). Swift payment is encouraged preferably by credit card. The Treasurer will issue a receipt to all who pay the membership fee. Please realize that IPSO is a small Society that needs to keep up its financial strength. We can not survive without our dues!

Note that this year the Executive Board may decide to display a list of members who did not pay at the time of the meeting at the registration desk. For those on that list, payment of dues can also be done directly to Rosalinde Kennis at the meeting in Vancouver.

Please check your name, (e-mail) address, phone/fax numbers, and/or position in the 2005 Membership Directory, and please forward any changes to the Secretariat!

Mails to the members below were returned to the secretary. Who knows their address?

Peter F. Ehrlich, USA

Vancouver Elections

At the IPSO Business Meeting in Vancouver, the Membership will elect the new President. The Executive Board has been advised by the Board of Past Presidents and proposes as nominee Richard Spicer, who has agreed to stand. The membership may send names of other nominees to the secretariat. A new vacancy also becomes available at the IPSO Executive Board, since Jan Godzinsky will end his second term. Names of nominees can be sent to the secretariat. All nominees have to be IPSO member in good standing (payed their dues!), and must have agreed to stand.

Call for Candidates of New Members of IPSO

Throughout the years, Executive Board has recognized the importance to expand the number of IPSO members. This can not be stressed enough! Please consider to propose your colleague, fellow, (chief) resident, or assistant with an interest in Pediatric Surgical Oncology to become a new member of IPSO. Please fill out the enclosed application form for IPSO membership and return it with a CV to the Secretary of IPSO.

Rare Tumor Registry

Please send any cases of rare tumors (as defined as tumors that do not fit into an established treatment protocol) to the Rare Tumor Registry in Amsterdam. Use the registration form attached to this news letter, or ask one at d.c.aronson@amc.uva.nl As usual, authors of abstracts regarding rare tumors will be asked to send in their presented case.

The Registry can also be contacted to inquire for information regarding rare tumors, or to exchange rare tumor tissues for research purposes. Only names of Surgeons whose patients are registered in the database will be given upon request, since patient data are not provided for privacy reasons.

Presidents corner

In May, IPSO organized a successful training course on surgical oncology for EUPSA members in Gdansk. EUPSA is the European Society of Paediatric Surgery and I do hope that we will have more and more colleagues from EUPSA interested in surgical oncology who will become new members of IPSO. As I did for my own country, please, do not hesitate to propose your colleagues to become members of IPSO.

It will soon be time for our annual meeting in Vancouver. This year we have a very special session scheduled: the honorary symposium dedicated to Jack Plaschkes. Jack is one of the founding members of IPSO and he has been the first elected president of IPSO. His input in promoting surgical oncology and research initiatives such as the SIOPEL group is recognized all over the world. SIOP and IPSO board would like to acknowledge his contribution to the field of paediatric oncology and are very pleased and honoured to organize this symposium on childhood liver tumours.

A second symposium will be dedicated to soft tissue borderline tumours and for the rest of the meeting, our program director, Larry Hadley, has arranged an outstanding scientific program.

I hope that you are all planning to attend the annual meeting this year. I look forward to seeing you in Vancouver.

Helene Martelli, president

APPLICATION for IPSO membership
(please print)

NAME OF APPLICANT

TITLE

AFFILIATION

ADDRESS

NATIONALITY

PHONE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

NAME OF SPONSOR 1

NAME OF SPONSOR 2

PLEASE RETURN WITH YOUR C.V. TO THE IPSO SECRETARIAT

Daniel C. Aronson, Emma Children's Hospital, PO BOX 22700, 1100 DE Amsterdam, The Netherlands

IPSO - Rare Tumor Registry

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Patient initials:

Date of birth:

Date of Diagnosis:

Pathology:

Stage (if possible):

Organ:

Surgery(S):

Yes No

if Yes: primary delayed biopsy only

Chemo (C): Yes No

Radioth (R): Yes No

Order of (S), (C), (R):

Tumor tissue stored: Yes No

if Yes, how: paraffin frozen culture other:

Date of last follow up:

Condition at last follow up: CR PR SD PD expired

Name of Surgeon:

Name of Institution Address:

Telephone: