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IPSO Newsletter January 2001

IPSO/SIOP Meeting 2000 in Amsterdam

The Amsterdam meeting was held in a different format than that of other years. On all three SIOP days (Wednesday through Friday), the morning sessions were available to the IPSO meeting. As an experiment, an extra afternoon was organized by the LOC outside the Congress venue in the 'Atheneum Illustre', the forerunner of the University of Amsterdam, founded in 1632. It was felt by the LOC that in these surroundings only a History session would be appropriate. After two presentations on the History of the Cell and the History of the Surgical Knife, the life and work of Max Wilms', Marie Curie, and Thomas Hodgkin were outlined. Finally, Phil Exelby, honorary member of IPSO, was the 'Surgeon who recalled the early days of Chemotherapy' in a very humorous fashion. A second experiment was the video session with demonstrations of surgical techniques. Many participants expressed their enthusiasm after this session, and the membership is encouraged to also send in video tapes for the Brisbane meeting. As a third new activity, IPSO organized three early bird sessions. Peter Gornall spoke of the UKCCSG Wilm's tumor trial, Jean-Bernard Otte of the role of Liver Transplantation in Hepatoblastoma, and Gerry Haase discussed Surgical issues in Neuroblastoma. All three sessions were fully subscribed, and were among the highest rated early bird sessions.

Invited lectures were given on Basic Research (SAGE mRNA Expression Profiling in Neuroblastoma), Evidence Based Medicine, Critical Appraisal of the Surgical Literature, and Late Effects of Cancer Treatment. Finally, the IPSO social event started with a canal tour through down town Amsterdam and culminated in a cozy Surgical Dinner where participants made new friends, and enforced old friendships.

The combined IPSO/APSA meeting continued

The first combined IPSO/APSA meeting has been successful (IPSO newsletter September 2000), and the APSA board proposed to organize the next joint meeting in May 2004. This issue will be put on the agenda of the business meeting to be reinforced, and the subjects and the format of this next combined meeting will be discussed.

Fund raising for the IPSO/SIOP meeting

The IPSO Executive Board has agreed to help SIOP in an effort to contribute to fund raising

for the annual meeting. We would like to ask all members to give this serious thought and try to contact any

potential donors who they feel would be receptive to sponsorship. In case of a fruitful contact, please pass this information to our Program Director, Bruce Broecker (bbroecker@pol.net). If, through this effort, funds can be raised, the Executive Board intends to institute two Surgical Prizes in order to make the program more competitive and therefore more attractive.

News from the Program Committee

Annual Meeting 2001

The annual meeting of IPSO will be in Brisbane, Australia on Tuesday October 9 and Wednesday October 10. The meeting will be held at the Carlton Crescent Hotel on Tuesday and at the Brisbane Convention center on Wednesday. The SIOP meeting begins on Wednesday (Oct. 10) and continues through Saturday October 13. IPSO members, who are also members of SIOP, will have already received abstract and registration information. IPSO members, who are not members of SIOP, should also be receiving the same information within the next several weeks. This information may also be found on a website for the Brisbane meeting – www.anzccsg.nch.edu.au/siop. The deadline for submission of abstracts is as always the 1st of March. Peter Borzi is the local arrangements surgical representative and among other duties will plan a social evening for IPSO on Tuesday October 9 (SIOP opening ceremonies will be on Wednesday evening). Guilio D'Angio has agreed to be one of the invited lectures and we will again have the customary clinical trials session, problem case session, and submitted abstract sessions. The video session, which was tried for the first time at the Amsterdam meeting, will be repeated and I would also invite abstracts on the history of pediatric (surgical) oncology to be submitted. The history session organized in Amsterdam by Dan Aronson was excellent and I would like to see this serve as a stimulus to a continuing annual history session. Finally there is a very good possibility that due to fund raising efforts by past president Bhaskar Rao there will be an award(s) for the best abstract/video on the IPSO program. This has not been finalized but should carry with it a monetary award.

Rare Tumor Registry

Please send any cases of rare tumors to the Rare Tumor Registry in Amsterdam. A registration form can be asked to be sent by e-mail after contacting d.c.aronson@amc.uva.nl. As always, part of the abstract sessions of the annual meeting will be dedicated to Rare Tumors. All authors will also be asked to register their Rare Tumor case in the Registry.

The Registry can also be contacted to acquire 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 no patient data are provided for privacy reasons.

From the Secretary/Treasurer of IPSO

The IPSO executive board decided to divide the secretary/treasurer post into two positions. The board appointed Dan Aronson as candidate for Secretary, who was elected by the membership at the Business meeting in Amsterdam.

The membership directory will be kept up to date by the Treasurer. The members therefore have recently gotten a membership-form from the Treasurer to update their details. Members are urged to forward changes of address, phone/fax numbers, and/or positions to the Treasurer. Applications for new memberships can be sent to the Secretary, where application forms are available by e-mail (d.c.aronson@amc.uva.nl). Application forms must be returned, combined with a CV of the new applicant, and sponsored by two IPSO members. We want to expand the number of IPSO members: If you have anyone to propose for new member of IPSO, please apply. Members who have not yet paid their annual fee (1999 – 2000 – 2001) are requested to do so. Please let the Treasurer know your credit card (Visa, Master/Euro) number and expiry date by mail or e-mail.

Call for candidates for the IPSO Executive Board

A new position in the IPSO Executive Board is available. Any active member can be proposed for Membership of the Executive Board. The members are asked to submit proposals to the Secretary in writing, at least three months before the Annual meeting. Needless to say that the proposed candidate must have agreed to stand.

Presidents corner

My first newsletter as President. Thank-you for electing me. Those of you who weren't at the annual general meeting in Amsterdam will perhaps be surprised to see a change of Secretary. With the expansion of IPSO Michio Kaneko was feeling the pressure of the combined Secretary and Treasurer's job and so Dan "volunteered" to take up the position of Secretary and was elected. Michio continues as Treasurer. He has been having trouble getting money from you but since the AGM you should have received a personalised account requesting payment. We cannot survive without our subscriptions being paid, so please do so. At the AGM some of you who are members of both SIOP and IPSO objected to paying for the Medical and Pediatric Oncology journal (MPO) twice, even though the second copy will go to a Third World centre, nominated by the member. We have negotiated with MPO and they have agreed to withdraw the second fee from this year on. We would ask, however, that those of you who feel that you can afford the increased fee would pay it so that the journal can go to a worthwhile cause. By the way, Giulio D'Angio, editor of MPO, is looking for surgical papers of general interest for the journal and would clearly look favourably at any submitted. The Amsterdam meeting is discussed elsewhere in the newsletter but I can't let the opportunity go without saying that, in spite of the different arrangements forced on us, it was

an excellent meeting, both educational and enjoyable. The history session was a very successful departure and Dan and his colleagues are to be highly commended. We are now looking forward to our sojourn Down Under and from what I hear it will be at least as good as Amsterdam. Please join us in Brisbane.

Ray Fitzgerald,
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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:

Telefax: