

Foreword

Fostering interdisciplinary immunology

FOCIS
Federation of Clinical
Immunology Societies
www.focisnet.org

**TRAINEE
SATELLITE
SYMPOSIUM**

The Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) was created in 2000 to foster interdisciplinary approaches to both understand and treat immune based diseases and to improve human health through immunology. In its fifth year of existence, FOCIS has 18 Member Societies and 9 Affiliate Societies, representing approximately 30,000 scientists and clinician scientists. The Annual Meetings have been enormously successful in bringing together immunologists from a broad spectrum of disciplines and creating a critical mass for dynamic scientific exchange.

In 2002, the FOCIS leadership held a retreat with leaders from academic institutions across the country to explore the concept of establishing FOCIS Centers of Excellence (FCE) to serve as engines of innovation for the multidisciplinary development and application of immunology for improved healthcare. Strong support for this concept led to the

establishment of FOCIS credentialed FCE in 2003. The initial twenty-two US and eight international FCE have subsequently grown to thirty-three North American and ten international FCE (Table 1).

The FCE have complemented the mission of FOCIS through the growth of interdisciplinary immunology programs at academic institutions and fostered creative educational and research initiatives in clinical immunology. A major highlight for the FCE has been the inauguration of an annual FCE Trainee Satellite Symposium (TSS) held during the FOCIS Annual Meeting. The first TSS was held in 2004 in Montreal during the joint meeting of FOCIS and the International Congress of Immunology. Each FCE competitively selected two trainees to attend the TSS and present their research. This unique session highlighted the research of these trainees and provided them the opportunity to

Table 1
FOCIS Centers of Excellence

North American FCE

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Children's Hospital Boston
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Cleveland Clinic
Columbia University
Dartmouth Medical School
Duke University Medical Center
Emory University
Hospital for Special Surgery
Mayo Clinic
McGill University
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Robarts Research Institute and Western University
Stanford University School of Medicine
University of Alabama-Birmingham

University of California Los Angeles
University of California San Diego
University of California San Francisco
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
University of Florida
University of Iowa
University of Miami
University of North Carolina
University of Pennsylvania Medical School
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester Medical Center
University of Southern California
University of Washington-Seattle
Washington University
Yale University

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

International FCE

Belgium—Ghent University Hospital	UK—Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals
Belgium—Universite Libre de Bruxells Hospital Ersmé	Venezuela—Institute of Immunology of Central University Medical School
Germany—University of Heidelberg Medical Center	Czech Republic—Institute of Immunology Czech Republic
Italy—Giannina Gaslini Institute	Iran—Shiraz University of Medical Sciences
Mexico—Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Medicas y Nutricion Salvador Zubiran	Russia—Rostov-on-Don State University

present their studies to a very select audience of academic leaders in clinical immunology. In addition, two trainees were competitively selected for \$75,000 Fellowship Awards. More detailed information on FOCIS, the FCE, and the TSS is available at www.focisnet.org.

This issue of *Clinical Immunology* is comprised of peer reviewed manuscripts submitted by FCE trainees with the highest scoring abstracts presented at the 2004 TSS. As evidenced by the diverse research topics, the interdisciplinary cross-fertilization was highly successful. The FOCIS leadership congratulates these young scientists who will serve as future thought leaders for clinical immunology.

Acknowledgments

The editors appreciate the editorial review assistance of Drs. Robert Kimberly, Lanny Rosenwasser, William

St. Clair, and Dhaval Patel and the administrative assistance of Ms. Sarah Krause.

David P. Huston
*Departments of Medicine and Immunology,
 Baylor College of Medicine,
 Houston, TX 77030-3411, USA*
E-mail address: dhuston@bcm.tmc.edu.
 Corresponding author. Fax: +1 713 798 5780.

Paul J. Utz
*Immunology & Rheumatology and Center for
 Clinical Immunology, Stanford University,
 Stanford, CA 94305-5166, USA*

C. Garrison Fathman
*Immunology & Rheumatology,
 Stanford University,
 Stanford, CA 94305-5166, USA*