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181 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115-5804 USA
Telephone: (617) 277-0551
1 (800) 779-8998
Fax: (617) 731-1541
E-mail: info@isid.org
<http://www.isid.org>

New Program Announcement • SSI/ISID Infectious Diseases Research Fellowship

The Swiss Society of Infectiology (SSI) and the International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID) have come together to create the SSI/ISID Infectious Disease Fellowship Program beginning in 2002.

The purpose of this new Fellowship Program is to support infectious disease physicians and scientists from developing countries through multidisciplinary clinical and laboratory research training at select biomedical institutions in Switzerland. The objectives of the Fellowship Program are:

- to train promising young physicians and scientists from developing countries for clinical and research positions in infectious diseases,
- to foster partnerships between Fellows and infectious disease leaders in Switzerland, and
- to increase scientific research capacity in low income/high disease burden countries.

Opportunities for training and research in a variety of areas ranging from basic studies of the mechanism of disease to studies in public health, epidemiology, diagnostics, therapeutics or vaccine development, are available through this program.

The term of the Fellowship is for one year. The anticipated start date of the 2002 Fellowships is the fall of 2002.

A financial stipend of up to 36,000 SF per year (approximately \$21,000 USD) will be given to Fellows to cover travel costs and living expenses. The program intends to award two fellowships in its first year.

Further details on research topics, training sites, and the application procedure will be available in October and posted on the ISID web site (<http://www.isid.org>). ❖



Plan now to attend the **10th International Congress on Infectious Diseases**
in Singapore, March 11 to 14, 2002!

Further information is available through our web site or the ISID office.

Abstract Deadline: November 1, 2002

Use the Electronic System now to submit abstracts: <http://www.isid.org>



Investigation of *Trypanosoma Brucei* Prenylated Protein Methyltransferase (PPMT) as a Potential Therapeutic Target Against African Trypanosomiasis

by David P. Kateete (BVM), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University, Uganda

My studies commenced in January and ran through May 2001, under the invitation of Professor Michael H. Gelb of the University of Washington, Seattle. It was a great opportunity for me to work with scientists from various departments. I participated in the study of several biochemical pathways in trypanosomes (*T. brucei*, *T. cruzi* and *Leishmania*) that appear to be good targets for development of new drugs to treat diseases caused by these organisms (trypanosomiasis).

Background

African trypanosomiasis occurs in 36 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and there has been a resurgence in recent years with approximately 300,000 cases reported every year. Human African trypanosomiasis is caused by *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense* or *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense*. The cattle form of trypanosomiasis, known as nagana, is caused by *T. brucei brucei*. The organism's evasion of the host's immune system by changing the variant surface glycoprotein (VSG) has been a major obstacle to vaccine development. Chemotherapy of trypanosomiasis is the only means of control and relies on a few, extremely toxic drugs (1). These problems have motivated the search for novel drug targets in *T. brucei* in an effort to come up with better drugs to treat African trypanosomiasis. Eukaryotic polypeptides synthesized with one of at least three types of cysteine-containing carboxyl-terminal sequences are candidates for post-translational modification reactions including isoprenylation, proteolytic cleavage, and methyl-esterification. In the isoprenylation process, proteins containing a CaaX box (where C is cysteine, an aliphatic amino acid, and X any amino acid) at their C-termini are first S-alkylated at cysteine with either farnesyl pyrophosphate (15-C) or geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate (20-C) to produce a prenylated thioether. Following this step, the three terminal amino acids are cleaved by a membrane-bound protease, and finally a membrane bound enzyme

(PPMT) catalyzes the S-adenosylmethionine-dependent addition of a methyl group to the newly exposed (-carboxyl group of the cysteine residue. This final reaction in the pathway is reversible and has been found to be essential in yeast. The genes encoding yeast (4) and mammalian PPMT have been cloned. Many of the prenylated proteins are small GTPases, including Ras, Rac, Rab, and Rho, that have roles in cellular signal transduction and intracellular vesicle trafficking (2). Protein prenylation has been detected in *T. brucei*. Blocking farnesylation with inhibitors of farnesyltransferase is lethal in *T. brucei* (3). Inhibitors such as S-farnesylthiosalicylic acid (FTS), which affect Ras membrane association, inhibit Ras-dependent cell growth (5). In the present study, we demonstrated the activity of PPMT in *T. brucei* microsome preparations and showed that inhibitors of PPMT inhibit growth of *T. brucei* blood form in culture, at concentrations that do not affect 3T3 cell growth.

Results

In this study, preliminary investigations have shown that PPMT activity exists in *T. brucei*. The selectivity in growth inhibition by the inhibitors of PPMT suggests an apparent difference in behavior between *T. brucei* and mammalian enzymes. Further research will determine the substrate specificity and localization of *T. brucei* PPMT. The gene that encodes *T. brucei* PPMT was cloned and expressed using the baculovirus expression system, and studies are underway to determine whether the recombinant enzyme is similar to the native one.

Many thanks to the staff in the departments of Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Pathobiology (division of allergy and infectious diseases), University of Washington, Seattle WA, and the International Society for Infectious Diseases, who supported this research through the fellowship program. It was a golden opportunity for me to learn more technologies than I can enumerate. ❖

ISID would like to acknowledge the following

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10th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

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ProMED-mail

by Daniel S. Shapiro, M.D., Managing Editor,
ProMED-mail



The past year has been an exciting one for ProMED-mail. Our Spanish-language list, ProMED-ESP, a collaborative effort with API, the Pan American Society for Infectious Diseases was inaugurated this summer. The list, which already has subscribers from at least 15 countries, translates ProMED-mail postings that are relevant to its subscriber base from English to Spanish. In addition, it provides information on outbreaks that are reported in Spanish and translates them into English for possible posting to the main English-language ProMED-mail. As a result of this list, we anticipate an increase in the number of reports of outbreaks from Latin America on ProMED-mail as the Spanish-language list becomes more popular. This collaborative effort between ISID and API will serve as a model of how we can work with regional infectious disease societies to increase the number of languages in which ProMED-mail is read.

Just as the number of ProMED-mail subscribers has increased, ProMED-mail has expanded its staff of expert moderators and editors by hiring a new Associate Managing Editor, Dr. Stuart Handysides. Dr. Handysides, the former editor of Communicable Disease Report, Communicable Disease and Public Health, and Eurosurveillance Weekly, brings a wealth of experience to ProMED-mail and particular expertise in the monitoring of outbreaks within Europe.

We have laid the groundwork for a number of new initiatives that will result in the availability of more information that is relevant to our subscribers. We will have a registration process in which subscribers will be able to let us know if there are specific areas of interest about which

they wish to be informed and, equally importantly, areas which are not of interest. The goal of this is to have subscribers receive e-mail only on those topics that they find relevant.

ProMED-mail and the International Journal of Infectious Diseases are working together so that each can use the resources of the other. The IJID will be published electronically in the near future, and selected articles from the journal will be linked to appropriate ProMED-mail postings, allowing ProMED-mail subscribers to access these articles on line. The IJID will publish summaries of selected ProMED-mail postings.

ISID and ProMED-mail are creating an on-line electronic library that will serve as a resource for ProMED-mail subscribers who want background information on specific diseases. This will nicely complement the outbreak reporting and will be accessible as links within ProMED-mail postings.

The ability to receive reports of outbreaks in real-time and rapidly provide our subscribers with those that are of interest will be improved as we undergo a change in our website. Since its inception in 1994, the mechanism by which people submitted reports to ProMED-mail was via e-mail. One of the features that we will be moving toward is web-based submission of outbreak reports to ProMED-mail. This will enable subscribers who come across a report of a disease outbreak on the Internet to submit the report to ProMED-mail without having to access their e-mail account.

All told, there will be a number of new developments that will improve the quality and increase speed with which our subscribers receive informative reports of outbreaks of emerging diseases. ❖

ISID would like to acknowledge the following

COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

10th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA)

Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID)

John E. Fogarty International Center – National Institutes of Health (NIH)

International Society for Chemotherapy (ISC)

UNAIDS

The Gorgas Course in Clinical Tropical Medicine

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in Birmingham, Alabama, USA and the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) in Lima, Peru together have developed an innovative approach that will allow physicians the opportunity to acquire skills in clinical tropical medicine: The Gorgas Course in Clinical Tropical Medicine.

This annual 9-week diploma course will next be given from January 28 through March 29, 2002. The course is limited to 28 participants and includes 360 contact hours (in English), daily ward rounds on a 36-bed tropical and infectious diseases unit, examination of patients in an outpatient clinic, and teaching trips to field clinics in the Andes mountains (Cuzco) and in the Amazon jungle (Iquitos).

Additional information may be obtained visiting our Web Page: www.gorgas.org



Confirmed Speakers (September 2001)

Akova, Murat, Turkey
Andersson, Siv, Sweden
August, Thomas, USA
Badaró, Roberto, Brazil
Baird, Kevin, USA
Behr, Marcel, Canada
Bishop, Ruth, Australia
Blaser, Martin J., USA
Brecht, Christian, France
Cahn, Pedro, Argentina
Carman, William F., Scotland, UK
Chow, Vincent, Singapore
Chua, Kaw Bing, Malaysia
Claverie, Jean-Michel, France
Curry, Alan, United Kingdom
Dagan, Ron, Israel
Deubel, Vincent, France
Esparza, Jose, Switzerland
Gaeta, Giovanni B., Italy
Gotuzzo, Eduardo, Peru
Gubler, Duane J., USA
Gupta, Sandeep, United Kingdom
Guzmán, María G., Cuba
Heathcote, E. Jenny, Canada
Herrmann, Richard, Germany
Kaneko, Akira, Japan
Karchmer, AW, USA
Karim, Salim, South Africa
Kim, Kwang Sik, USA
Kinoshita, Reimi, China
Klugman, Keith, USA
Krcmery, Vladimir, Slovakia

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10th International Congress on Infectious Diseases • Preliminary Program

March 11–14, 2002 • Raffles City Convention Centre • Singapore

SYMPOSIA. The following symposia are being organized.

Please note that not all topics have been confirmed and that they are subject to change.

Practical Issues in Emerging Infections

Emergence of Nipah Virus: How it Happened
– Will we have Another Epidemic?
Enterovirus 71: How and Why Epidemics Occur
Crisis on the Border: Rift Valley Fever Outbreak in Saudi Arabia and Yemen
Containing Hemorrhagic Fever Epidemics:
The Ebola Experience in Uganda

Partnerships for Containing Antimicrobial Resistance: The WHO Global Strategy in Action in Low-Resource Countries

The Role of WHO in Coordinating a Global Response to Antibiotic Resistance
National Public Health Strategies to Reduce Irrational Use of Antimicrobials and Decrease Antimicrobial Resistance
Drug Policy and Essential Drugs: What is their Impact in Preventing and Controlling Antimicrobial Resistance?
International Societies and Antimicrobial Resistance: Bridging Global Policy and Local Actions

New Strategies for the Management of Bone, Joint, and Prosthetic Infections—New Approaches to Old Problems

Physiopathology and Novel Medical Therapeutic Modalities of Prosthetic Joint Infections
Diabetic Foot Infection
Evidence-Based Approach to the Use of Local and Oral Antibiotics in Chronic Osteomyelitis
Where Zebras Tread: Management of Chronic Tropical Osteomyelitis

Mechanisms of Antibiotic Resistance

Multiple Antibiotic Resistance: Bacterial Advantages and Risks in the Clinical Settings
Overcoming Resistance in Gram-positive Pathogens: The Role of Antibiotic Combinations
Understanding the Bacterial Cell Wall: New Enzymatic Pathways, New Resistances, and New Targets for Antibiotics
Diversity of Beta-Lactamases: What is the Future for Inhibitors?

Infection Control in Low-Resource Settings: Recognizing the Need

Nosocomial Infections and Infection Control: Contrasting Perspectives from Developed vs. Developing Countries
Minimizing Surgical Site Infections in Low-Resource Settings
The Contribution of Infection Control to Managing Antibiotic Resistance
Relative Contributions of Technology and Behavior Changes for Infection Control Outcomes

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Polio Eradication
Influenza Immunization—A Program in Taiwan
Hib Immunization—Gambia Experience
Japanese Encephalitis
Measles Elimination

The Global Threat of Dengue—Desperately Seeking Solutions

A Global Perspective of the Dengue Threat
New Developments and Challenges in the Diagnosis of Dengue
Determinants of Dengue Viral Virulence
Strategies for Development of Vaccines Against Dengue
Prospects for Prevention of Dengue by Genetic Immunization

Problems and Progress in Malaria Treatment and Prevention in South East Asia

Non-Pharmacological Methods to Prevent Malaria: What Really Works in Low-Resource Settings
New Agents for Malaria Treatment and Prophylaxis
Chloroquine-Resistant Vivax: Epidemiology and Treatment Options
How Close is an Effective Malaria Vaccine?

HIV in the Asian Pacific Region

Epidemiology of HIV and AIDS in the Asian Pacific Region
Accessibility of Care and Treatment of HIV and AIDS in the Asian Pacific Region
Antiretroviral Therapy in Resource-Limited Settings: The Thai Experience
Managing Opportunistic Infections in Resource-Limited Areas

Emerging Infections: The Strategy for Identifying New Pathogens

The Role of Electronic Microscopy
The Role of Culture
The Role of Serology
The Role of Molecular Biology

Complete Genome Sequencing: What does it Teach Us?

Genomic Evolution of Intracellular Bacterial Parasites and Symbionts
Neisseria meningitidis
Mycoplasma
Rickettsia conorii Versus *Rickettsia prowazekii*

New Trends in Fungal Infections

Emerging Invasive Fungal Infections in Children and Adults

Preventive Strategies vs. Pre-Emptive Therapy: Fungal Infection in the Surgical ICU

Management of Penicillinosis in Southeast Asia

Management of Fungal Infection in HIV Patients Without Access to HAART

The Potential Global Impact of the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines

Efficacy and Effectiveness of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines—Global Perspectives

Carriage, Transmission and Spread of *S. pneumoniae*—The Impact of Conjugate Vaccines

The Global Acceptance and Availability of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines for the First Decade of the 21st Century

New Understandings in the Pathophysiology and Treatment of Bacterial Meningitis

The Changing Pneumococcal Surface: Invasion and Virulence

Bacterial Translocation of the Brain-Blood Barrier Present and Future of Adjuvant Therapy for Bacterial Meningitis

Fluid Restriction and Intracranial Pressure During Bacterial Meningitis: To Restrict Fluids or Not

Current Antimicrobial Therapy for Bacterial Meningitis

Melioidosis

Pathogenesis and Host Interactions

Molecular Detection of *Burkholderia pseudomallei*

Other than Humans—Melioidosis in Animals

Treatment of Melioidosis—Where Are We Now?

New Frontiers in the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C: Therapeutic Innovations and Clinical Benefits

Diagnosis and Monitoring of HCV Infection

The Efficacy of Antiviral Therapy for Prevention of Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Improvement of Mortality

Which Treatment for Patients with HCV Infection and Compensated Cirrhosis

Mechanisms of Antiviral Treatment and Possible Reasons for Failure in Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection

Acute Bacterial Respiratory Infections in Children—Preventable by Vaccines or Not?

Global Magnitude of the Problem with Emphasis on the Developing World

Towards Correct Etiologic Diagnosis of Acute Respiratory Tract Infections

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccines

What do Children Gain from Pneumococcal and Hib Conjugates?

Towards Controlling Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Low Income Countries

Epidemiology of Antimicrobial Resistance in Low-Income Countries

Factors Involved in the Emergence and Diffusion of Antimicrobial Resistance in Low-Income Countries

Detecting Antibiotic Resistance in Low-Resource Settings

Rational Antibiotic Use in Low-Resource Settings: Practices and Policies that Work

APUA Country-specific Antibiotic Regulation Strategy: Lessons Learned in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Importance of the Guadalajara Declaration

New Challenges in Tuberculosis Control

The Role of Molecular Epidemiology in the Evaluation of Tuberculosis Control Efforts

Management of MDR-TB in a Low-Resource National Program

Treatment of Latent TB Infection for TB Control in HIV-Endemic Settings

Beyond National Programs: The Role of Private and Non-Profit Organizations in TB Control

Health Impact of Food Borne Pathogens

Non-typhoid Salmonella as a Food Borne Pathogen

The Public Health Impact of *Campylobacter*

An Emerging Food Borne Pathogen: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

E. coli O157: H7: Understanding a Potentially Deadly Food Borne Disease

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Hot Zones: The Global Resurgence of STDs
M. genitalium: A “New Pathogen”

New Understandings in Interactions Between Herpes and HIV

Foreskin Controversies

Recent Advances in the Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis B Infection

Present and Future Treatments of Chronic Hepatitis B Infection: An Update

Antiviral Therapy for Hepatitis B Virus Infection in Liver Transplantation

Hepatitis B Virus Mutations and Antiviral Treatment

Treatment Options for HBV-Associated Decompensated Liver Diseases

Immune Therapy of Hepatitis B Virus Chronic Infection

Appropriate Use of Antibiotics and its Impact on Resistance Development

Public Health Perspective: Globalization of Antimicrobial Resistance—Epidemiological Challenges

Infectious Disease/Population Dynamics

Perspective: Consequence of Action and Inaction
PK/PD Perspective: Does Dose Matter?

Physician's Perspective: Life at the Sharp End of Prescribing



10th ICID

Satellite Symposia

Sponsored by Bayer AG

“The Appropriate Use of Fluoroquinolones in the Hospital and the Community”
on March 12, 18:00hrs

Sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline

“Hepatitis Disease Management—Integrating Prevention, Diagnostics and Therapeutics”
March 11, 13:00-16:00hrs

10th ICID

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Confirmed Speakers (September 2001)

Lamunu, Margaret, Uganda
 Lee, May Ann, Singapore
 Lepage, Philippe, Belgium
 Leung, Nancy W.Y., China
 Lew, Daniel, Switzerland
 Lin, Tzou-Yien, Taiwan
 Ling, Moi-Lin, Singapore
 Looareesuwan, Sornchai, Thailand
 Madani, Tariq Ahmed, Saudi Arabia
 Mader, Jon T., USA
 Mayer, Kenneth H., USA
 Mulholland, Kim, Australia
 Mwinga, Alwyn, Zambia
 Odio, Carla, Costa Rica
 Omata, Masao, Japan
 Osborne, Connie, Switzerland
 Paton, Nicholas, Singapore
 Péchère, Jean-Claude, Switzerland
 Perrillo, Robert P., USA
 Plotkin, Stanley, USA
 Raoult, Didier, France
 Rappuoli, Rino, Italy
 Relman, David, USA
 Ricketts, Maura, Switzerland
 Ruxurungtham, Kiat, Thailand
 Sagnelli, Evangelista, Italy
 Santantonio, Teresa, Italy

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Immunomodulators and Combination Therapy for Hepatitis C

New Combination Regimens for Difficult-to-Treat Chronic Hepatitis C Patients

Which Patients Could Benefit from PEG Interferon plus Ribavirin Combination?

Pegylated Interferons in the Treatment of HCV/HIV Coinfected Patients

Pegylated Interferons and the Progression of Chronic Hepatitis C to Cirrhosis and Hepatocellular Carcinoma: The NTH HALT-C Trial

Truth or Coincidence: Chronic Sequelae of Infectious Diseases

Guillain-Barré and *Campylobacter*

Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome and *E. coli*

Multiple Sclerosis and Herpesviruses

Helicobacter pylori and Cancer

Atherosclerosis and *Chlamydia pneumoniae*

New Advances in Antiretroviral Therapy for HIV

When Should you Initiate Antiretroviral Therapy?

Blood Monitoring of Antiretroviral Drug Levels: Their Role in Clinical Practice

Antiretroviral Toxicities: Recognition and Management

Planned Treatment Interruptions

Update on Biomedical Interventions to Prevent HIV Transmission

The Search for an Anti-HIV Vaccine

Treating STDs to Decrease HIV Transmission

Topical Microbicides to Decrease HIV Transmission

The Use of Antiretroviral Therapy to Decrease HIV Transmission

Understanding Influenza: Epidemiology and Pathogenesis

Influenza Surveillance

Influenza Animal Surveillance

Mechanism of Influenza Virus Infection

Acute Encephalopathy Associated with Influenza

Antiviral Therapy

New Developments in Vaccines

New Developments in Inactivated and Live Influenza Vaccines

Glycoconjugate Vaccines: A Designer's Approach

Immunologic and Viral Challenges to Developing an HIV Vaccine

DNA Vaccines

Ketolides as Potential Therapeutic Agents in Areas of High Prevalence of Antibiotic Resistance in *S. pneumoniae*

Prevalence of Resistance to Beta-Lactams, Macrolides and Fluoroquinolones in the Far East

What Drives Resistance?—Social, Economic, and Political Factors

How Pharmacokinetics Determine Outcome—Have we learned any Lessons?

Resistance and the NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) Syndrome—Making Surveillance Data Available Locally in the Electronic Age

Therapeutic Efficacy of New Agents Against Resistant Bacteria—How do Ketolides Compare?

Confronting Pediatric HIV/AIDS Globally

The Treatment of Pediatric HIV in Low-Resource Settings

Strategies for Initial Therapies and Late Modifications in Children Infected with HIV

Low Cost Antiretroviral Treatments to Prevent Maternal-to-Child Transmission of AIDS

Enabling AIDS Orphans to Achieve Healthy Productive Adulthood: Affordable Strategies that Work

The Global Extension of Care for Persons with HIV/AIDS

Challenges and Opportunities to the Global Implementation of HIV Prevention and Treatment Programs

Introducing Widespread HIV/AIDS Treatment: Mathematical Implications for the Emergence of Anti-Retroviral Resistance

Making HIV Prevention and Treatment Work on a National Scale: Lessons from Uganda

Successful Anti-Retroviral Treatment in a Low Resource Setting: How Does it Happen?

Vaccination of New Millennium Babies

Poliomyelitis: Choosing the Right Vaccine for Safer Protection

Acellular Pertussis Combined Vaccines: Vaccines of the Future

MMR Vaccination: Current Situation and Perspectives

Vaccinating Children Against Influenza—Protecting Individuals and Communities

Immune Reconstitution and HIV Management

HIV Management: Immune Based Treatment Strategies

Discordant Immune Responses in HIV Infection

Markers of Immune Reconstitution and T-Cell Function

Psychoneuroimmunology, Behavioral Medicine and AIDS

SYMPOSIA UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

Fungal Infections and Novel Antifungal Agents

Pediatric Infections

New Approaches to the Treatment of Sepsis

Controversies in the Treatment of Lower Respiratory Tract Infections

PLENARIES

The following plenary addresses have been confirmed.

Plenary Lecture I

Molecular Biology of Prion Disease

Charles Weissmann (UNITED KINGDOM)

Plenary Lecture II

Infectious Diseases in the 21st Century:

Old Challenges and New Opportunities

Francis Waldvogel (SWITZERLAND)

Plenary Lecture III

Helicobacter pylori

Martin J. Blaser (USA)

Plenary IV

Rotavirus: From Bench to Vaccine

Ruth Bishop (AUSTRALIA)

Plenary V

Challenges of Multi Drug Resistant Malaria

Nicholas J. White (THAILAND)

From the Executive Committee and Council

by Tim Brewer, ISID Program Director

This past July, the ISID Executive Committee and Council held a joint meeting in Amsterdam to review and evaluate current Society programs and to discuss the development of new projects. The focus of the meeting was on how the Society should grow to better serve the needs of its members. With the support of the Executive and Council, a number of recent steps have been taken by the Staff to make it easier for members and others to learn about the Society and its programs. These steps include redesigning the Society's website to make it more accessible, easier to navigate, and to provide a more complete description of the Society's programs. In addition to the changes in the web site, the Society has produced an informational brochure for distribution at meetings and by mail. This brochure describes the major programs of the Society, its publications, and the benefits individuals receive by being regular or corresponding members.

The Executive and Council explored ways to further meet the educational and professional development needs of individuals in infectious diseases and microbiology around the world. The Society has grown tremendously since its founding, both in the number of members and in the scope of its programs. The Leadership felt strongly that the Society should continue to expand its activities in the areas of education and professional development, and look for new opportunities or venues for training and support. Discussion on how to better use the Internet for disseminating information and fostering collaborations among individuals in different regions is an example of a new possible direction for the Society. A lively discussion on how to support current and new initiatives also took place.

The Executive and Council appointed new members to two standing Committees, the Nominations Committee and the Publications Committee. The Nominations Committee, chaired by the Secretary of the Society, will identify candidates for president-elect, as well as vacancies on the Executive and Council that will be filled at the 10th ICID in Singapore. The Society encourages all of its members to submit

names of individuals who may be interested in serving on the Council to the Nominations Committee for consideration. The Committee will review potential candidates and propose a slate of nominees for the Council and membership to vote on at the 10th ICID.

New Executive and Council members were also appointed to the Publications Committee. The Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, Prof. Jonathan Cohen, also serves as an ex-officio member. Important issues facing this Committee include how best to move to an electronic online publication in addition to the current print journal and if and when to increase the number of issues per year. Both the Committee and Prof. Cohen are excited about the potential for sharing information and educational opportunities between the Journal and the Society's outbreak reporting program, ProMED-mail. Together these two venues reach approximately 25,000 individuals in over 140 countries.

As the Society continues to evolve and grow, the Executive and Council realize that the structure of the Society may need to adapt to best meet the needs of its members. To that end, they formed a Bylaws Committee to review the current Society statutes and to advise the Executive and Council on whether these statutes need to be updated. This Committee will help the Society grow and adapt as needed to remain a vital resource for individuals in the field of infectious diseases.

The global burden of infectious diseases has been discussed a great deal recently in the lay press and public around the world. The impact of these diseases goes beyond the morbidity and mortality that they cause to effect the economic growth and stability of both regions and countries. The Society and its members have the opportunity to take on the challenge posed by infectious disease both in individuals and in the public health arena. It is a very exciting time to be in infectious diseases, and the Society and its leadership look forward to working with the members to continue to meet these challenges. ❖



Confirmed Speakers (September 2001)

Seto, Wing Hong, China

Shiffman, Mitchell, USA

Singhi, Sunit, India

Sirinavin, Sayomporn,
Thailand

Sirisanthana, Thira, Thailand

Supputtamongkol, Yupin,
Thailand

Takeda, Yoshifumi, Japan

Targett, Geoff,
United Kingdom

Tauxe, Robert, USA

Thomas, Howard C.,
United Kingdom

Thomas, Philip A., India

Tuomanen, Elaine, USA

Turnidge, John, Australia

Uplekar, Mukund,
Switzerland

Valtonen, Matti, Finland

Waldvogel, Francis,
Switzerland

Watanabe, Haruo, Japan

Weber, Jörg, Germany

Weissmann, Charles,
United Kingdom

Wenzel, Richard, USA

Werasit, Sittirai, Switzerland

Whitby, Mike, Australia

White, Nicholas J., Thailand

Wise, Richard,
United Kingdom

Yuki, Nobuhiro, Japan

Zeuzem, Stefan, Germany

Singapore Airlines Ad