Clinical and Basic Scientists meet in Chicago on PML

E. O. Major, Ph.D. • Bethesda, MD

Recognizing the rapid accumulation of data and in depth understanding of JC Virus pathogenesis led to the conference Phoenix. Progression of Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML), basic and clinical scientists met for a two day workshop in Chicago in February to exchange information, share ideas, and plan future studies. The meeting was held just prior to the 8th International Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. A group of 45 investigators from Asia, Europe and the United States discussed the molecular aspects of JCV biology and new therapeutic avenues for treatment of PML patients who continues to be a significant neurological complication in AIDS patients and in other individuals with severe immune compromised status such as allograft recipients and cancer patients. PML has been difficult to treat because of the multifacial nature of the lesions in the brain which makes targeted delivery of drugs effective against JCV replication very difficult. The Workshop on the Biology of JCV and PML was not only a conference on the biology of this virus but also the first time that neurologists, infectious disease experts, virologists, and molecular biologists met for the sole purpose of up-dating each other on the major issues and challenges of understanding the process of a viral induced encephalomyelitis disease in humans. Research reports from this unique meeting will be presented in a special issue of the Journal of NeuroVirology with details of current knowledge on the biology of JCV and progress in conducting clinical trials for PML. The meeting was sponsored in part by the Neurologic AIDS Research Consortium (NARC) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

From AIDS on page 3

study of HIV in most of the body. Meanwhile, the blood brain barrier makes application of treatments for the central nervous system significantly more difficult. For these reasons, many scientists interested in HIV are increasing their efforts to monitor the impact of HIV on the brain and recognize that this will likely be one of the most challenging areas in the battle with this fascinating virus. It is clear that ongoing leadership is necessary for understanding the biology of HIV infection in the nervous system and for effectively controlling or eliminating it. This will be a rich field of study in the coming years.

From NINDS on page 2

Kristen Bernard (University of North Carolina), Marc Desorges (INRS-Institute Armand Frappier), Jennifer Gordon (Temple University), Tricia Hogan (Penn State College of Medicine), Stuart Kerr (University of Glasgow), Pieter Leyssen (Riga Institute for Medical Research), Kellie Peterson (Wright State University), Marzia Puccioni-Sohler (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), and Samanatha Seldon (student trainee at the National Institutes of Health). As a reminder, ISNV plans to provide funding to defray the costs of a number of investigators interested in attending the 4th International Symposium on NeuroVirology scheduled for June 19-22, 2002 in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Fields Virology, 4th Edition

David Knipe, Ph.D. • Boston, MA

The fourth edition of Fields Virology is scheduled to be published by Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins in June, 2001. This book was originated by Bernie Fields, one of the pioneers in neurovirology, and is currently served as editor in chief for the first 3 editions. The third edition was published just after his death in 1996. In the fourth edition, we have retained the general organization of the first three editions with Part 1 containing chapters on general aspects of virology and Part 2 containing chapters on replication and medical aspects of specific virus families and specific viruses of medical importance. In Part 1 we have added new chapters on principles of virology, virus entry and uncoating, replication strategies of RNA viruses and DNA viruses, virus assembly, and virus vectors to enhance the utility of this book as well as that of Fundamental Virology as a textbook. In Part 2 we have added new chapters on the arteriviruses, the Bornaviridae and Kaposis sarcoma-associated herpes virus, and we have expanded the retrovirus section to include chapters on the non-human lentiviruses as well as other aspects of retrovirus replication. Perhaps most importantly, each copy will include a CD-ROM containing the entire text and color versions of some of the figures. I am personally looking forward to using the CD-ROM for making slides from the digital images. Fundamental Virology, which contains selected basic chapters and is intended as a textbook for graduate students and as a reference for basic scientists, should be published by August and available for fall courses.

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2002 PIONEER IN NEUROViroLOGY AWARD

Awarded to be announced at the 4th International Symposium on NeuroVirology held in conjunction with the 10th Conference on Neuroscience of HIV Infection Düsseldorf, Germany, June 19-22, 2002

Nominations should be forwarded to:

Brian Wigdahl, PhD, President, International Society for NeuroVirology

Department of Microbiology and Immunology 1017

Penn State College of Medicine, 500 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033 USA

For additional information and/or questions, Tel: (717) 531-8258 • Fax: (717) 531-5560 • E-mail: bwigdahl@psu.edu

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The meeting will include oral presentations and poster sessions in a number of exciting areas, including antiviral therapy, cell activation, and differentiation, cellular trafficking, CSF virology and blood brain barrier, cytokine and chemokine biology, diagnostic imaging, emerging viral infections, epidemiology, glial cell dysfunction and demyelination, HIV disease and clinical investigations, microarray technology and cellular function, neuronal dysfunction, signal transduction and apoptosis, neuropsychology, prion disease, vaccine development, viral adaption and evolution, viral infections and autoimmune diseases, viral mediated and neurologic disorders, viral world. For this, viral information and animal models, viral vectors, stem cell technology and gene therapy, and viral-induced tumors. The meeting will also feature the presentation of the third Pioneer of NeuroVirology Award and the accompanying overview lecture.

Abstracts for poster sessions will be accepted from students, postdoctoral fellows, new investigators, and established scientists in the field. A number of abstracts will also be selected for oral presentation. The tentative deadline for abstract submission and early registration is January 15th, 2002. Abstracts as well as meeting proceedings will be published in the Journal of NeuroVirology.

This joint meeting promises to be a highly productive forum for the presentation of cutting-edge neurovirology research conducted by investigators around the world. For the latest information regarding registration, abstract submission, and lodging, contact the ISNV Administrative Office or visit the Düsseldorf 2002 pages on the ISNV website (http://www.isnv.org/dusseldorf2002). A meeting information packet, which will include registration forms and hotel information, will be mailed to all members in Fall 2001.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us at the 4th International Symposium on NeuroVirology and the 10th Conference on the Neuroscience of HIV Infection. All attendees will receive special reduced accommodation rates at the Rheinterrasse. ISNV members can also take advantage of special meeting registration rates.
ISNV Symposium
Grants to attend 3rd Investigators-In-Training
NINDS & NIMH Fund
Organizing Committee was able to trainees to attend the Symposium of 2000 in San Francisco. Based on the quality of submitted abstracts and verification of training status, the International Organizing Committee was able to provide partial support for ten trainees to attend the Symposium and present their research in the special Investigators-in-Training Session and in the poster session workshops. The investigators who received the awards were Aarthi Ashok (Brown University), Ashok (Brown University), special Investigators-in-Training trainees to attend the Symposium. Neurovirology held in September 2001, Dr. Clarence Ruth Briggs • Philadelphia, PA
Along with Carlton Gajdusek, Dr. Gibbs was with heart disease after a long struggle with advanced Alzheimer’s disease, and a special issue for the 4th International Symposium of Neurovirology will present the latest research and therapeutics for AIDS/PML. This issue is in press and scheduled for shipping in September. The Editorial Board and Staff are planning several special issues and supplements for Volume 8, including an issue on neural immunity, polyomavirus and human disease, and a special issue for the 4th International Symposium of Neurovirology in 2002. As the newest member of the JNV Editorial Staff, I am committed to providing the highest quality of service to the ISNV community.

In memory of Dr. Clarence Joseph Gibbs, 1924-2001
E. D. Major, Ph.D. • Bethesda, MD
On February 16, 2001, Dr. Clarence Joseph ‘Joe’ Gibbs, Ph.D. passed away after a long struggle with heart disease and pulmonary problems. Dr. Gibbs was a pioneer investigator in the area of infections of the human nervous system and also shared in the work which led to the discovery of the infections nature of what was then described as simply ‘spongiform encephalopathies’. Joe Gibbs’ papers on the transmissible nature of the spongiform encephalopathies or TSE and other topics number over one thousand. His early work on Kuru and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and the transmission of an agent in animal models are referenced to this day as classic descriptions of investigative science and paved the way for recognition of this field by the Nobel Prize committee.

Along with Carlton Gajdusek, M.D., Joe worked for almost 40 years in this area of research. Joe has shared in the discovery of the neurodegenerative process which underlies the prion diseases, and has contributed to the understanding of the molecular basis of these diseases. In addition to his research, Joe was a dedicated teacher and mentor to many students and postdoctoral fellows who worked with him at the Laboratory of Neurological Research at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Gibbs not only imparted his knowledge of the field to his colleagues’ benefit but also worked tirelessly with hundreds of students who came to the NINDS looking for guidance in science and inspiration in its progress. Joe provided both, generously and in great volumes. He will be remembered at times, as a crusading individual with direct opinions on many subjects and equally as a dedicated scientist with an enormous humanitarian sense of his obligation to make the world better, and in so doing, to challenge his colleagues to do the same. The NINDS held a memorial service for Dr. Gibbs on July 24 on the NIH campus. The NIH Acting Director as well as many of Dr. Gibbs’ colleagues spoke of his lifelong accomplishments.

The twentieth anniversary of identification of the lymphotropic murine leukemia virus (MTLV) and to the remarkable medical history that has been generated by this condition. Modern medical science has identified the molecular anatomy and also shared in the work which led to the discovery of the infectious nature of the spongiform encephalopathies. Joe provided both, generously for the benefit of many colleagues but also worked for the public interest, making the world better, and in so doing, to challenge his colleagues to do the same. The NINDS held a memorial service for Dr. Gibbs on July 24 on the NIH campus. The NIH Acting Director as well as many of Dr. Gibbs’ colleagues spoke of his lifelong accomplishments.

The neurologic impact of HIV was first reported by Bill Snider and colleagues in 1983 at Cornell in a landmark report outlining both the direct and indirect neurologic complications being seen in AIDS patients. Later, when HIV was identified, it was soon apparent that the virus entered the brain early in the course of infection, and often in the infection, resulting in a characteristic encephalopathy termed AIDS dementia complex by Richard Price and colleagues. Since that time, a common and painful neuropathy, as well as a variety of other peripheral neuropathic presentations, and a myelopathy have been associated with the virus. In addition, a subset of previously uncommon neurologic complications began to be seen commonly as a result of prolonged immunodeficiency. Included in this different spectrum of neurologic disease are cryptococcal meningitis, toxoplasmosis encephalitis, cytomegalovirus encephalitis and radiculomyelitis, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, more aggressive forms of GHD, and more diffuse and destructive cerebral and other nervous system lymphomas. The burden of these conditions, many of which are difficult to treat, as well as the burden of the primary neurologic complications of the virus represent a very substantial part of the clinical impact of HIV, and result in many deaths. We recognize the neurologic impact of the infection developed rapidly after 1983, effectively recruiting interested neurologists to study it has taken longer. AIDS leadership was heavily involved in the acute medical issues of the infection, and the neurologic problems tended to receive suboptimal attention and support. Within the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), Dr. Richard Price led important groundbreaking work demonstrating that zidovudine actually had benefit for the AIDS dementia complex. However, the race to develop better therapy, and lack of organized support for neurology efforts made it very difficult to develop neurologic trials. A combination of effective community constituent lobbying and the interest of neurologists working in the ACTG system led to creation of the Neurologic AIDS Research Consortium led by Dr. David Clifford at Washington University in St. Louis supported by NINDS. Since 1993, this group has performed trials addressing HIV associated motor-cognitive disease, painful peripheral neuropathy, and progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy. Accomplishments include studies of an antioxidant effective TNF-alpha antagonist for cognitive motor disease, of recombinant nerve growth factor for painful neuropathy and cyclosporine arthritis and cidofovir for PML. Current projects of this group include collaborative studies with ACTG assessing the longitudinal impact of HIV therapy on neurocognitive performance and neuropathy and a longitudinal cerebrospinal fluid study (ACTG736) seeking to understand the dynamics of viral trafficking as impacted by therapy. Trials that should open in the next few months include a controlled trial of transcutaneous selegiline for HIV associated motor cognitive disease (A5090) and a pathophysiologic study of the development of painful neuropathy utilizing quantifying techniques (A1177). More information about this study group may be accessed through their website at www.neuro.wustl.edu/marc.

Much progress has been made in understanding the interaction of HIV with the nervous system. However, the complexity of studying the nervous system has made this work much more difficult than

The featured Brief section of the newsletter highlights an area of international importance that the editors feel deserves special attention. An update of current activity and information on a “featured” topic should help keep members aware of fast paced studies and new results. The Editors are always interested in your ideas for future articles and brief comments on its topics.
The Journal of NeuroVirology provides a unique platform for the publication of high quality basic science and clinical studies on the molecular biology and pathogenesis of viral infections of the nervous system and reporting the development of novel therapeutic strategies using conventional and unique neurotropic viral vectors. Additionally, the Journal devotes special issues on emerging infectious diseases and mechanisms of virus-induced neurodegeneration of the nervous systems.

Beginning with Volume 7, the Journal of NeuroVirology changed publishers to Taylor & Francis, a publisher with extensive experience with society affiliated publications. As we transitioned to our new publisher, the editorial staff was reminded that adjustments are required with change and the resulting “growing pains” require attention and correction. We are grateful for your patience and understanding during this process as we strive for perfection in JNV. Having passed this transitional phase, we are excited to begin working on the August issue, (74), which is devoted to AIDS/Progressive Multifocal Leuкоencephalopathy, from basic science to clinical and therapeutic applications. With Drs. David Clifford and Eugene Major as Guest Editors, this special issue will present the latest research and therapies for AIDS/PML. This issue is in press and scheduled for shipping in September.

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From AIDS on page 3

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ISNV

International Society for NeuroVirology

4th International Symposium on NeuroVirology

TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 10TH CONFERENCE ON NEUROSCIENCE OF HIV INFECTION

Gabrielle Arendt, M.D., Meeting Co-Chair • Düsseldorf, Germany

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Penn State College of Medicine, 500 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033 USA

For additional information and/or questions,
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