In Memoriam

Grief-stricken we would like to inform you that on January 29, 1999, passed away our closest friend and co-worker

Prof. Tadeusz P. Chorzelski,

one of the founders of immunodermatology, a talented scholar and creative researcher, eminent doctor and teacher, author of basic papers on pemphigus and other bullous dermatoses, coeliac disease and IgAEmA antibodies, author or co-author of several books and monographies.

His death is the greatest loss for Polish dermatology and international immunodermatology.

Prof. Stefania Jablonska,
Prof. Maria Blaszczyk
Department of Dermatology, Warsaw School of Medicine,
Koszykowa 82 a, PL–02-008 Warsaw (Poland)

Announcements

Scientific Meeting 1999
Friday, October 22, 1999
Ministère de la Recherche, 1, rue Descartes, 75005 Paris
Subject: Extracellular Matrix


Registration: Mme Pitton, Fondation René-Touraine, Hôpital Saint-Louis, Pavillon Bazin, 1, rue Claude-Vellefaux, F–75475 Paris Cedex 10 (France), Tél. +33 1 53 72 20 60, Fax +33 1 53 72 20 61

17th Continuing Medical Education Course for Practical Dermatology and Venereology
Munich, July 23–28, 2000
Lectures will be held in German.
Information and registration:
Prof. Gerd Plewig (Congress President)
Mrs. Gertrud Hammel (Congress Office)
Addres:
Fortbildungswcho für praktische Dermatologie und Venerologie e.V.
c/o Department of Dermatology,
Ludwig Maximilian University Munich,
Frauenlobstrasse 9–11, D–80337 Munich (Germany),
Tel. +49 89 5160 6063, Fax +49 89 5160 6066
Third Professor Hans Storck Scientific Award

The Organizing Committee of EADV Geneva 2000 is pleased to announce the above award of Sfr. 5,000.–, sponsored by an educational grant of Pharmacia & Upjohn Diagnostics Switzerland. This award – which will be presented during the EADV meeting – is offered to a clinician or scientist, working in Europe in the field of dermatology and allergology. The topic chosen for this award is ‘Atopic dermatitis’. The contribution of the applicants should lead to a better understanding of the pathomechanisms involved in the atopic skin disease or improve the patient’s management. The winner of the first award, presented on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology in Zurich in 1991, was Dr. U. Reinhold with the title ‘T-cell-mediated immunoregulation in atopic dermatitis’, published in Wüthrich B (ed): Highlights in Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Bern, Huber, 1992. The winners of the second Hans Storck Award, presented on the occasion of the 50 Years Anniversary Symposium of the Allergy Unit at the Department of Dermatology in Zurich, were C. Akdis and co-workers with the title ‘Role for T cells and cytokines in the intrinsic form of atopic dermatitis and Th. Werfel et al. with ‘Birch-pollen-released food triggers atopic dermatitis patients with specific cutaneous T-cell responses to birch pollen antigens’. The contributions will be published in vol. 28 of the series Current Problems in Dermatology by S. Karger Publishers in 1999.

An unpublished original article should be submitted in five copies together with a curriculum vitae and a list of publications to: Prof. B. Wüthrich, Allergy Unit, Department of Dermatology, Gloriastrasse 31, CH–8091 Zurich, not later than June 30, 2000.

Erratum

During the typesetting of Dermatology 1999, vol. 199, No. 1, one line indicating the last author of abstract No. 49 (p. 94) has been omitted.

We apologize for this mistake and publish the complete abstract below:

49 Pseudoxanthoma elasticum in Isolated Swiss Regions


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Pseudoxanthoma elasticum (PXE) is an inherited disorder producing characteristic lesions in the skin, eyes and cardiovascular system as a result of abnormal calcification of the elastic fibers. Both autosomal recessive and dominant variants have recently been mapped to chromosome 16p13.1. Objectives: To review the diagnostic criteria for PXE and to identify the gene responsible. Methods: 142 subjects, 79 female and 63 male, aged 3–86 years, with known family histories of PXE were investigated. A detailed medical history, physical examination, genealogical analysis and blood, for DNA extraction, were taken. In all PXE patients, skin biopsies were analyzed histologically. Results: 23 patients, 15 females and 8 males, aged 29–77 years, presented the three major diagnostic criteria of PXE (cutaneous changes, calcified elastic fibers on histology and angioid streaks in the ocular fundus) according to the Consensus Conference of 1992. The cases were thus classified as category I of PXE. The genealogical studies showed autosomal recessive transmission. Conclusions: Only category I of the classification could be allocated, as none of our cases corresponded to any other category. There was no correlation observed between the severity of the lesions from the skin, the eyes or the cardiovascular system in the same patient. The phenotypic manifestations of PXE can show considerable variance in one family. The diagnosis can be difficult in the presence of age changes such as solar elastosis or macular degeneration; in this situation a reliable molecular test would be helpful. The DNA of our patients is currently being analyzed to confirm the chromosomal locus and to identify the disease-causing gene.