The First 15 Years

H.

Hirai

Tokyo

Organization and Meetings

The International Society for Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine started in 1973 with a call from me to those interested in carcinofetal protein research to attend a meeting in Sapporo, Japan on 23–25 October. Only about 50 participants including 6 from abroad (G. Gitlin, E. Alpert, W.H. Fishman, USA, J. Kohn, UK, R. Masseyeff, France, and M.J. Simons, Singapore) gathered in a lecture hall for this first meeting, giving in all 36 papers. The main subjects were alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), Au-antigen, carcinofetal or placental isoenzymes and carcinoembryonic antigen. At this meeting, the name ‘International Research Group for Carcinoembryonic Proteins (IRGCP)’ was officially given to the group.

The second meeting (Chairman: R. Masseyeff) was held under the auspices of INSERM in Nice, France on 7–9 March 1974 with 60 presentations on AFP. This meeting was actually held independently of IRGCP but both were intimately connected so that I regarded it as our second meeting.

The third meeting (Chairman: H. Hirai, E. Alpert) was held in Tokyo on 20–24 November in the same year, 1974.

The fourth meeting (Chairman: W.H. Fishman) was held in San Diego, Calif, on 29 May to 1 June 1976. At this meeting, IRGCP was approved as a permanent international organization with myself being appointed as president and Dr. Fishman appointed as the chairman of the US Branch of IRGCP. Thus, the organization of IRGCP was established. The memorable scientific affairs are well documented by Fishman in the published proceedings of this San Diego meeting.

The fifth meeting (Chairman: B. Nørgaard-Pedersen) was held on 6–9 August 1977 in Copenhagen. On this occasion, the problem that IRGCP should be recognized as the Society was fully discussed and carried over to the next meeting. An ad hoc Committee to develop a constitution for the Society was set up with Dr. W.H. Fishman as chairman.

The sixth meeting (Chairman: F.G. Lehmann) was held on 17–21 September 1978 at Marburg/Lahn, FRG. This was the last meeting of IRGCP because IRGCP as such was dissolved and renamed the International Society for Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine (ISOBM).

The new constitution offered by the ad hoc Constitution Committee was approved. The bimonthly publication of the Society Journal, Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine, was launched in August 1980 by Elsevier/North Holland with Dr. Lehman as the first Managing Editor. Dr. Lehmann, a very active young person in his thirties, died, however, in August 1980. His obituary by Dr. W.H. Fishman, Editor-in-Chief, appeared in volume 2 of the Journal.

The seventh meeting (Chairman: A.M. Neville) was held in Surrey, UK of 10–13 September 1979. At this time, the Constitution for ISOBM was published. This meeting did not publish any

proceedings. However, all presented papers were recommended to be submitted to the Society Journal. A significant cash surplus from the meeting budget was contributed to

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Table 1. Meeting dates, places and Chairmen

the Society. This set a precedent; all chairmen of subsequent meetings have followed suit to date. The eighth meeting (Chairman: V.I. Ryatsep) was held in Tallin, Estonia, USSR on 15–19 September 1980. Many Russian and Eastern European colleagues participated. The international nature of the Society became readily apparent. Subsequent meetings are summarized in table 1.

Publications

Newsletters and References

Early in the Society's existence, I published Newsletters and References (vol. 1, 1973; vol. 2, 1974; vol. 3, 1976; vol. 4, 1978; total 634 pp.), distributing them to members of the Society who numbered 182 in 1978. In August 1980, the members list was published and 319 members were listed.

Proceedings of the Meetings

Before publication of the Society Journal in 1980, each meeting published its proceedings as shown in table 2.

The Society Journal

In August 1980, ISOBM started to publish the Society Journal, Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine with Elsevier/North Holland. The Editors-in-Chief were: W.H. Fishman and H. Hirai, while F.G. Lehmann was Managing Editor and A.M. Neville, E. Ruoslahti, T. Wada, Regional Editors. There were 15 persons on the Editorial Board. In the preface to this first issue, Dr. Fishman described the origin of the journal (vol. 1(1), pp. 1–5, 1980) together with giving an outline of the history of the IRGCP and ISOBM.

As of volume 1 (2), Dr. A.M. Neville took the position of Managing Editor due to the death of Dr. Lehmann.

In 1984, the contract between the Society and Elsevier/North Holland terminated with volume 4, and the journal was relaunched from volume 5 under the new title of Tumour Biology published by the Sai-kon Publishing Co. Ltd., Tokyo. The Editors-in-Chief were H. Hirai and A.M. Neville and the Managing Editors were D. Brock (UK) and A. Yachi (Japan). The Editorial Board number rose to 42 people from 14 countries. As President of the Society, I wanted to have the publisher preferably from Europe, but this

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Table 2. Proceedings of the Meetings

1st Meeting, Sapporo, Japan Proceedings of Sapporo Symposium on Carci-noembryonic Protein (ed. T. Wada), 207 pp., 40 papers (published by the Cancer Institute, Sapporo Medical College, Sapporo, as vol. 8 of Tumor Research, 1973)

2nd Meeting, Nice, France

L'Alpha Foeto-Proteïne (Alpha-Fetoprotein; ed. R. Masseyeff), 603 pp., 59 papers (published by L'Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale, 1974)

1974 3rd Meeting, Tokyo, Japan

Carcinofetal Proteins: Biology and Chemistry (eds. H. Hirai and E. Alpert), 452 pp., 48 papers (published as vol. 259 of the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 1975)

4th Meeting, San Diego, Calif. Onco-Developmental Gene Expression (eds. W.H. Fishman and S. Sell), 781 pp., 118 papers (published by Academic Press, New York 1976)

5th Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark Carcinoembryonic Proteins – Recent Progress (eds. B. Nørgaard-Pedersen and N.H. Axel-sen), 683 pp., 95 papers (published by Black-well Scientific Publications, Oxford, as supplement No. 8 to vol. 8 of Scandinavian Journal of Immunology, 1978)

6th Meeting, Marburg/Lahn, FRG Carcinoembryonic Proteins: Chemistry, Biology, Clinical Application (ed. F.-G. Lehmann), vol. 1: 547 pp., 58 papers; vol. 2: 932 pp., 154 papers (published by Elsevier/North Holland, Amsterdam 1979)

Since 1980, the Society commenced to publish its own Journal so that no proceedings of the meetings were published after 1980, except a special issue for selected papers from the presentations at the 10th Anniversary meeting.

1983 10th Meeting, Sapporo, Japan

Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine (eds. E. Alpert and H. Hirai), 460 pp., 46 selected papers (published as vol. 417 of Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 1974)

was not possible at that time. The publication of the Journal from Saikon Publishing Co. was partially supported by the Japanese Ministry of Education. The president of the Society wishes to express his thanks for the help of the Japanese Government.

Starting with volume 7 of Tumour Biology, the Managing Editor was changed from D. Brock to A. Malkin (Canada) as at present.

The geographical distance between the Managing Editor and the publisher, Saikon Publishing Co. Ltd., gave many problems. Thus, a new contract was sought and the Journal is now published by S. Karger, Medical and Scientific Publishers, Basel, Switzerland. The Editors-in-Chief wish to express their thanks to Ms. A. Takahashi, President of the Saikon Publishing Company, for her cooperation over the last 4 years. The title of the journal was changed from Tumour Biology to Tumor Biology and the first issue volume 8 (1) was published in January, 1987, under the new format. Now the Editors-in-Chief are: H. Hirai and A.M. Neville; Managing Editor: A. Malkin; Associate Editors: E. Alpert, S. von Kleist, E.A. Nunez, M. Sep-pälä and A. Yachi; and 40 persons are on the Editorial Board.

Constitution

The first constitution was ratified in 1980 after 3 years' work of the ad hoc Committee for the Constitution which was chaired by Dr. W.H. Fishman. The Constitution was printed and distributed to all members of the Society.

In the beginning of 1987, Dr. Hirai asked Messrs. Neville, Alpert, von Kleist and Malkin to reexamine the Constitution because the situation of the Society had changed. The participation of Karger as publisher had influenced the organization of the Society. It seemed necessary to renew the Constitution. So Dr. Neville was asked to take the chair of the ad hoc Committee by Dr. Hirai.