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Message from the chairman of the meeting
Dear ISOBM members,
Dear participants to ISOBM’97
As most of you know, our Society was founded in 1972 by the late Professor Hidehatsu Hirai from Sapporo, a charismatic personality who wanted to facilitate international contact between scientists from Japan, Russia, Europe, Canada and the USA, working in the field of carcinoembryonic proteins.
Several senior and faithful ISOBM members can be proud to be among the discoverers of tumor markers or the pioneers of tumor targeting technologies, progressively used in the management of cancer patients. This clinical interest of our research field explains why we were able to obtain substantial financial support for this meeting from industry.
We are very grateful to our numerous sponsors for helping us to make this XXV anniversary of ISOBM a generous event in this splendid Montreux Palace. From the more than 250 abstracts submitted, the Organizing Committee has selected 107 for presentation as posters, which will be exposed for the full length of the meeting, and 133 for oral presentation, which are distributed in 18 general workshops. All of the selected abstracts are printed in the attached abstract book, which will be published as a special issue of the ISOBM’s journal: “Tumor Biology”. In addition, there will be 6 tissue differentiation (TD) workshops, which should represent a bridge between research and industry. They are organized under the responsibility of Jo Hilgers. Last but not least, we are grateful to the 15 speakers of the morning symposia who accepted our invitation to ISOBM’97. These investigators represent outstanding basic scientists who are also concerned with clinical applications. Their contributions should inspire our members to explore new areas of research. We should avoid remaining exclusively concerned with the clinical evaluation of tumor marker assays, or limited to the more extensive analysis of the known tumor marker genes, but rather attempt to understand the biological function of these markers, take advantage of oncogenes and suppressor genes for molecular diagnosis of cancer, develop new approaches to active immunization, improve tumor targeting strategies and propose original forms of cytokine or gene therapy, without forgetting basic research in developmental and cancer biology. We sincerely hope that every participant at ISOBM’97 will learn something important from this congress, will meet old friends and make new ones, and also, of course, will enjoy the hospitality of this charming region of Switzerland.

For the Organizing Committee
Jean-Pierre Mach

Abstracts
Tumor Biology
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E-Mail karger@karger.ch The list of contents is available at:
Fax +41 61 306 12 34 http://www.karger.ch/journals/tbi/tbicont.htm
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The latest data from leading investigators

Adhesion Molecules in Hematology
Editor: Elio Cacciola
Co-Editors: Emma Cacciola, Rosella R. Cacciola

Effective hematopoiesis occurs through a series of steps involving proliferation, development and differentiation of early hematopoietic progenitor cells and ultimately leads to the release of mature cells into the peripheral blood. This process is dependent on discrete cell-cell and cell-matrix interactions which are regulated by expression of adhesion molecules.
This publication highlights the critical role played by adhesion molecules in both normal and pathological hematopoiesis. Several reviews focus on the regulation and expression of adhesion molecules in different types of hematological malignancies, which is likely to play an important part in the anatomical distribution and progression of the disease. Further topics include homing and trafficking of hematopoietic progenitor cells, adhesive interactions in hemostasis, as well as the roles of adhesion in cancer spread and in graft-versus-host disease. Written by experienced investigators, this compilation of reviews provides an excellent overview of the latest advances in the field and will be essential reading for hematologists, oncologists, internists, pathologists, cell and molecular biologists.

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Editor: Cacciola, E. † (Catania)