Special Issue Dedicated to Susan J. Vannucci and Robert C. Vannucci

This special issue of *Developmental Neuroscience* is the 9th such volume to be produced following a Hershey Conference and is dedicated to Drs. Susan and Robert Vannucci, two extraordinary scientists who have each made a substantial impact on the field of developmental cerebral blood flow and metabolism. The Vannuccis (Susan and Bob as they are known to those of us in this field) initiated and organized the first Hershey Conference on Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism, which took place at the Hershey Hotel (Hershey, PA, USA) in June 1997. At that time, Bob was a professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the Hershey Medical Center of the Pennsylvania State University and Chief of Pediatric Neurology, and Susan was an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics with a co-appointment in the Department of Neuroscience and Anatomy. Their goal was to organize a small meeting of clinician scientists and basic scientists working on brain injuries sustained by newborn infants to advance the field and help build bridges between laboratories working on similar research (comparable in stature and science to the Princeton Conference for adult stroke).

The first meeting was a small international meeting with 35 participants and was co-funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). The second Hershey meeting was held on June 8–11, 2000, with approximately 70 participants (see Fig. 1) and was funded largely by an R13 award from the NINDS. Since

Fig. 1. Seated from left to right (front row): Dr. Susan Vannucci, Dr. Donna Ferriero, Dr. Henrik Hagberg, and Dr. Robert Vannucci at the 2nd Hershey Conference, at the Hershey Hotel, June 9, 2000.

that time, a Hershey meeting has been held every 2 years, and its location has alternated to include the east or west coast of the USA and Europe. The meeting has grown to approximately 150 participants and has been successful in receiving support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for each meeting. Importantly, this meeting has brought together clinicians, basic scientists, fellows, and graduate students in a relaxed setting to enable them to share their discoveries and thoughts with the goal of understanding the mechanisms that lead to perinatal

brain injury. The meeting has always welcomed investigators who have new perspectives and new approaches, and it has helped to promote the academic careers of young investigators. To demonstrate our appreciation and gratitude for the energy and devotion that Susan and Bob have each brought to this conference, we dedicate this special issue to them.

Susan J. Vannucci (née Kohle) received her doctorate degree in cellular and molecular physiology from the Pennsylvania State University-Hershey Medical Center, with a focus on obesity research. Her postdoctoral training was in diabetes and metabolism research at the NIH. Her academic appointments have included the Pennsylvania State University, Columbia University, and Weill Cornell Medical College. She is currently a professor emeritus of neuroscience in the Department of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medical College. Over the course of her career, she has mentored numerous graduate students, medical students, pediatric residents, and newborn medicine fellows, as well as junior faculty. Her bibliography includes over 100 original articles, reviews, and chapters focused on glucose uptake, cerebral metabolism, and pathological aspects of developmental brain injury. Dr. Susan Vannucci has served as the chair of multiple NIH study sections, and she has served as the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on every R13 grant that has funded the Hershey Conferences. At scientific conventions, her persona is that of the polished professional, yet she has always been completely accessible and generous with her time, especially for students and fellows. Susan has always exhibited a flexible and playful mind and quick wit. She also has a wonderful memory and is a skillful storyteller. These combined abilities enable her to make people feel comfortable, and her spirit, energy, and passion for research have been key to unifying the perinatal brain injury research community.

Robert C. Vannucci received his medical degree from Thomas Jefferson Medical College. He then obtained postgraduate training in pediatrics and neurology at New York Hospital where he trained with Fred Plum, MD. Dr. Robert Vannucci was appointed as an assistant professor, but then moved on and over the course of 10 years he

worked as an associate professor at the Hershey Medical School, Cornell Medical College, and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In 1986, he returned to the Hershey Medical School where he served as Chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurology and Professor of Pediatrics until his retirement in 2005. Over the course of his career, Bob cared for thousands of patients, trained medical students, residents, and clinical fellows, and led an NIH-funded basic science laboratory where he pursued his interests in cerebral metabolism and the pathophysiology of perinatal brain injury. From 1994 to 2004 Dr. Robert Vannucci led a Program Project grant that was funded by the NICHD. This grant brought together 8 investigators from 4 different departments to investigate mechanisms of injury and recovery after perinatal hypoxia-ischemia, and it was this core of investigators who served as the seed for the Hershey Conference. Dr. Robert Vannucci's bibliography includes over 160 original articles, reviews, and book chapters that cover a variety of aspects of clinical neurology, cerebral metabolism, and pathogenesis of developmental brain injury. Bob always made his presence known at scientific conferences. While a mild-mannered physician-scientist, he had an encyclopedic knowledge of the literature, and it was not uncommon for him to cite a finding from a specific paper and ask a speaker to comment on how their new findings could be reconciled with that earlier finding. Bob's inquiring mind and penchant for asking questions kept his colleagues on their toes and ensured that any conference that he attended was interactive.

The developmental neuroscientists who have attended the Hershey Conferences (and other meetings that they have helped to organize) have benefitted enormously from the generosity of the Vannuccis. Thus, we are pleased to honor Susan and Bob Vannucci by dedicating this special issue to them. We are also pleased to announce that the next Hershey Conference on Developmental Brain Injury will be held at the Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA, on June 6–9, 2018.

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