Society News

Report of the 29th Annual Meeting
Southampton, November 20–21, 2003

The 29th annual meeting of the Pancreatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland was held in Southampton on 20 and 21 November 2003 and was chaired by the President of the Society, Dr. David Fine (Southampton).

The first day started with a Symposium entitled "Nutrition and pancreatic disease". The speakers were Dr. Nick Sharer (Poole) who spoke about antioxidant therapy, Dr. Parveen Yaqoob (Reading) on the role of fatty acids as immune modulators, Mr. Colin Johnson (Southampton) on the advantages of enteral feeding, and Professor Michael Tisdale (Aston) on causation, prevention and treatment of cancer cachexia.

The afternoon session began with poster presentations and discussions, followed by two debates on the Management of Pancreatic Necrosis. Professor Mike Larvin (Derby) put the case for the routine use of antibiotics in severe acute pancreatitis, while Professor Clem Imrie (Glasgow) argued that antibiotics should be reserved for those with a positive culture. Mr. Saxon Connor (Liverpool) spoke on early necrosectomy as the ideal treatment for infected necrosis and Professor Bill Lees (Middlesex) countered this by proposing that necrosectomy is rarely indicated as radiological intervention is preferable. Both arguments generated a great deal of lively discussion.

Dr. Jonathan Slack, guest lecturer, ended the first day with a stimulating talk on "Transdifferentiation of liver to pancreas: Phenotypic plasticity with therapeutic potential". On the second day of the meeting, free papers were presented by members of the society and their research teams. Two superb lectures were also delivered. Professor John Neoptolemos (Liverpool) gave a Keynote Lecture on the subject of "Surgery for pancreatic disease: The state of the art" and Professor Markus Lerch (Greifswald) presented his innovative research on "Pancreatic enzyme activation, but not as we know it". Also on the Friday, a meeting was held with Mrs. Sue Ballard, representative of the newly formed Pancreatic Cancer Support and Action Network (a patient support group), at which the Pancreatic Society expressed its wholehearted support for this new group.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Lord Smith Prize for the best oral presentation to the Society was awarded to Mr. C.D. McFaul (Liverpool) for his presentation entitled "The detection of p53 and K-ras as a two-step test in pancreatic families". The poster prize was awarded to Mr. D. Mole for his poster presentation "Modeling a ‘second hit’ in experimental severe acute pancreatitis: The isolated liver TNF-alpha and IL-6 response to a delayed portal endotoxin challenge."

The meeting was attended by over 100 members and guests, with the number of pancreatic nurse delegates continuing to grow.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society new officers were elected: Mr. Ross Carter (Glasgow) succeeds Mr. Richard Charnley as Secretary and Mr. Ashley Dennison (Leicester) succeeds Dr. Colin Ainley as Treasurer. The President-Elect (to be President in 2005) will be Mr. John Buckels (Birmingham). Next year’s Annual Meeting will be held in Plymouth on 11 and 12 November 2004 under the Presidency of Professor Andrew Kingsnorth.

Richard Charnley, PSGBI Secretary

Abstracts
The abstracts of the 29th Annual Meeting, Southampton, November 20–21, 2003, are published as an online supplement to Pancreatology:
www.karger.com/pan/2003/003/006/toc