

MEETING REPORT

International Symposium on Cell/Tissue Injury and Cytoprotection/Organoprotection: Focus on the Gastrointestinal Tract

St. Petersburg, Russia, October 12-14, 2011



The Saint Petersburg Symposium was the sixth in this series of international symposia devoted to the study of mechanisms of cell and tissue damage as well as to the pharmacological protection against this injury in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. The first symposium was held in 1986 in Germany. The subsequent three were in the United States and the fifth in Ukraine. Thus, this sixth symposium in Russia was the 25-year jubilee of the inaugural symposium.

Traditionally, most of the participants in this series of symposia have been leading experts in the field. The sixth symposium continued this tradition by inviting keynote speakers and renowned scientists from 12 countries: Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The symposium was attended by about 100 scientists, including 49 international participants. The largest international contingents were from the United States and Japan. A large number of students and staff members of the local Pavlov Institute of Physiology and other scientific institutions of St. Petersburg also attended.



L→R: Profs. L. Filaretova (Symposium Chair, Russia) and S. Szabo (United States) at the chairs' desk with flags of the 12 countries represented at the symposium

The president and main organizer of this symposium was Prof. Ludmila Filaretova, an internationally known scientist at the Pavlov Institute. She chaired the local organizing committee and interacted with the symposium international advisory board, which included Profs. T. Brzozowski (Poland), S. Okabe and K. Takeuchi (Japan), S. Orrenius (Sweden), S. Szabo and Y. Tache (USA).



The participants of Session 1

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St. Petersburg Meeting (continued)



Before the symposium opening, there was a six-hour tour of the laboratories (above left) and private apartment (above right) of the famous physiologist, Ivan Pavlov. About a century ago in St. Petersburg, Dr. Pavlov discovered the conditional reflex and many functions of the GI tract. His laboratories, where he worked from 1890 until 1936, were almost intact, including the mysterious “tower of silence”. The visitors viewed the famous posthumous monument to Pavlov’s dog and a film containing original footage of Pavlov’s life and his laboratory experiments.

During the official opening of the meeting, Prof. Filaretova noted that this jubilee symposium brought together three generations of scientists: the few who founded this series of symposia, those who successfully continued it, and the young generation who will develop it further still. A special lecture was presented by Prof. S. Szabo, who reviewed the current state of mechanisms and pharmacologic modulation of gastroprotection, as well as the initial discovery of gastric cytoprotection by prostaglandins by the late André Robert, who was also one of the founding fathers of these symposia. This was followed by a plenary lecture by Prof. K. Zhyvotovskyy, from the laboratory of Prof. S. Orrenius, another founder of this symposium series, on the mechanisms and involvement of apoptosis in the pathogenesis of GI diseases.



L→R: Session Chairs Profs.
S. Okabe (Japan) and T. Brozovski
(Poland)

Plenary lectures were also delivered by Prof. S. Okabe on the cyto-reductive effect of acetic acid on mouse cancer and Prof. D. Chen on the importance of bench-to bedside-and-back concept in GI pharmacology.



L→R: Session Chairs Profs.
D. Chen (Norway) and R. Hunt (Canada)

The remaining two days of scientific programming included five sections with oral presentations and one poster session each day, including a short discussion of each poster report. Based on the originality and importance of the data presented in posters, the Best Poster award was given to investigations from Semmelweis University.

The main sessions focused on the mechanisms of NSAID-induced tissue injury with presentations by Profs. J. Wallace on the distinct pathogenesis and prevention of

St. Petersburg Meeting (continued)

NSAID gastropathy and enteropathy; K. Takeuchi on the role of PG receptor EP4 in development and healing of NSAID-induced intestinal damage; H. Satoh on the dual control of duodenal mucosal protection by COX1 and COX2; H. Matsui, T. Mizushima and B.A. Callingham. In the session on stress and its dual actions on the GI tract, the main presentations were by Profs. Y. Tache, J.D. Wood, and L. Filaretova, while the presentations on novel insights into the mechanisms of GI mucosal injury and protection were by Profs. S. Szabo, R. Hunt, K. Gyires, O. Zayachkivska and A. Yanaka. The two major sessions on advances in GI pharmacology featured presentations by Profs. T. Brzozowski, P. Sikiric, Y. Nagasaki and Drs. C.M. Zhao, A. Kawabata, G. Tolstanova and D. Zelena.

Funding for the symposium was provided by the Department of Biological Sciences, the Saint Petersburg Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, the IUPHAR GI Section, the Russian pharmaceutical company, TNK Silm, and Ajinomoto, a Japanese company.

The symposium abstracts and selected original articles will be published in the *Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology*, while invited review articles will appear in a book tentatively titled Cell/Tissue Injury and Cytoprotection/Organoprotection in the Gastrointestinal Tract: Mechanisms, Prevention and Treatment, edited by Profs. L. Filaretova (St. Petersburg, Russia) and K. Takeuchi (Kyoto, Japan). It will be published by Karger of Basel, Switzerland.

The entire program of the International Symposium on Cell/Tissue Injury and Cytoprotection/Organoprotection: Focus on the Gastrointestinal Tract is available on the official website: www.onlinereg.ru/site.php?go=163&page=2767&lang=ENG. ●

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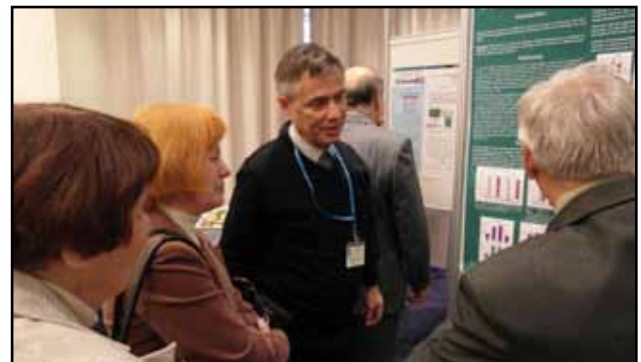
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Prof. Y. Tache (United States) at the podium



L→R: K. Gyires (Hungary) and B. A. Callingham (United Kingdom) admire the posters



Prof. P. Sikiric (Croatia), in the center, poses questions about the contents of a poster



Profs. H. Satoh (Japan), in the center, and K. Zayachkivsk (Ukraine), at right, discuss a poster