

Fellows Day 2008

Meeting Report

Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th September 2008

Moller Centre, Cambridge

Overview

Kidney Research UK was delighted to hold another successful event this year, the seventh Fellows Day event since its conception. The Chairman of the event this year was Professor J Andrew Bradley, Professor of Surgery at the University of Cambridge and a Trustee of Kidney Research UK. The programme commenced with an introduction from Professor Neil Turner, Chairman of Kidney Research UK who was able to highlight many areas of success that the Charity has achieved over the last year and the resultant additional £0.5 million committed to funding new research this year.

Guest Presentations

On day 1 our first key note speaker Professor Mark Pepys, University College London Medical School, provided a fascinating talk about the research surrounding C-Reactive Protein and the first definitive information on its role. Later that day in the afternoon Professor Elaine Holmes from Imperial College London, presented a keynote lecture on Metabonomics/Metabolomics and how this strategy had been applied to renal studies. Our third guest speaker, Professor Ron Laskey, Hutchinson/MRC Research Centre Cambridge, provided a though provoking presentation on day 2 about Science Fraud and Whistleblowing, a caution to everyone.

Two workshops were held at the beginning of day 2 focusing on Ethical Matters, presented by Mrs Joan Kirkbride, NRES and Animals in Research, presented by Dr Simon Festing, RDS. Delegates found these workshops informative and an opportunity to share views and experiences.

Presentations from researchers funded by Kidney Research UK

The following six Fellows/Students gave 15 minute oral presentations on day 1 outlining their work.

Ms Maria Fragiadaki, PhD Studentship, Imperial College London.

CDP/CUX is a novel modulator of the fibrillar collagens: implications for fibrosis.

Dr Joe Wang, Training Fellow, Kings College London

Antisense inhibition of Kirsten-Ras reduces fibrosis in a rat model of unilateral ureteric obstruction.

Dr David Kavanagh, Training Fellow, University of Edinburgh

The binding of factor H to a complex of the physiological polyanion and C3B on the cell surface is disrupted in atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome.

Dr Ross Francis, Training Fellow, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford

Allograft-protective regulatory T cells develop from FoxP3-negative precursors in vivo

Ms Alice Brown, PhD Studentship, University of Bristol

Localisation of putative ammonia transporters RHBG and RGCG in human kidney: RHCG is exclusively apically targeted and RHBG is absent.

Dr Andrew Fry, Training Fellow, University of Cambridge

Investigating the molecular biology of AE1.

Two moderated poster session were held, one each day, and the following Fellows/Students presented posters on their work.

Mr Elias Katsouleris, PhD Student, University of Brighton

Glucotoxicity and lipotoxicity in kidney cells: role of endoplasmic reticulum stress.

Ms Lina Johansson, Pre-doctoral Research Assistant – Special Grant, Imperial College London

Quality of life for older patients on peritoneal dialysis and haemodialysis: broadening options for long term dialysis in the elderly study (BOLDE).

Dr Tina Chrysochou, Post-doctoral Fellow – Project Grant, University of Manchester

Prediction of renal function outcome after revascularization with magnetic resonance imaging in atherosclerotic renovascular disease.

Dr Sally Burns, Post-Doctoral Fellow – Project Grant, Western General Hospital Edinburgh

WNT-CA2+ signaling in kidney.

Mr Refic Gokmen, Training Fellow, Kings College London

Defining the kinetics of transcription factor and interferon-gamma expression in effector T cells.

Ms Jessica Harris, PhD Studentship, University of Bristol

Cellular effects of focal segmental glomerulosclerosis.

Dr Ceri Fielding, Career Development Fellow, Cardiff University

Interleukin-6 regulation of acute and chronic peritonitis and peritoneal fibrosis via the stat signaling pathway.

Dr Andrew Hall, Training Fellow, University College London

Multi[photon imaging of live rate kidney slices reveals differences in mitochondrial function between proximal and distal segments of the nephron in response to anoxia.

Ms Leslie sage, Research Assistant – Project Grants, University of Bristol

Angiopoietin-1 improves the ability of glomeruli to retain albumin.

The familiar ‘outcomes’ session concluded day 1

Day 1 concluded with lay presentation from Dr Anurag Singh (Training Fellow), Dr Ceri Fielding (Career Development Fellow) and Dr Elias Katsouleris (PhD Student) communicating about their research outcomes to a cross-section of people provided through a panel comprising of patient, public, lay, fundraising and scientific expertise and of course the audience of delegates. This session, as in the previous two years, highlighted the importance of being able to communicate important research activities and findings to a mixed audience.

Evening dinner and entertainment

A ‘themed’ Indian dinner with entertainment from the Bhangra Beat dance and music group concluded the first day and provided a chance for everyone to relax together (including seeing everyone up on their feet to learn traditional Indian dance!).

Awards

Kidney Research UK’s Chairman, Professor Neil Turner closed the meeting after presenting the prizes for Best Oral, Best Poster and Best Outcomes.

Best Oral – congratulations go to Dr Joe Wang.

Best Poster – congratulations to Dr Tina Chrysochou

Best Outcomes – congratulations to Dr Anurag Singh